

City of Dunedin Hammock Advisory Committee (HAC)

Meeting Minutes – March 11, 2019

Dunedin Community Center Meeting Room, 1920 Pinehurst Rd, Dunedin, Florida

Note: Per the March 5, 2019 City Commission’s online work session agenda and online video of the meeting, Consent Agenda Item #2.b.2, the Commission approved the following: *“Reappoint regular members Steve Fasnacht and Elizabeth Grant to another three-year term that expires March, 2022. Appoint regular member Donna Moore as an alternate member to finish a three-year term that expires March, 2020, appoint alternate member Chris McLaughlin as a regular member to a three-year term that expires March, 2022 and appoint alternate member Victor Johantges as a regular member to finish a three-year term that expires March, 2021.”* The roster of members listed below reflects this approval although the Commission has not yet officially approved their meeting minutes.

HAC members present: Steve Fasnacht (Chair), Chris McLaughlin (Secretary), Susan Humphreys, Patricia Jennings, Elizabeth Grant, & Victor Johantges.

Excused absences: Pam Hillestad & Donna Moore (Alternate).

Vacancy: Alternate position since January 2019.

City Staff: Lanie Sheets (Parks & Recreation Superintendent)

Meeting called to order at 6:32pm by Chair Fasnacht with 17 individuals in attendance.

Meeting Minutes: The February 11, 2019 Minutes were reviewed. **Motion #1** (Ms. Grant): Approve the Minutes as submitted. Ms. Jennings seconded. With no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Stormwater Advisory Committee Report (Ms. Grant): Ms. Grant reported that there is no report as the SAC meets quarterly and the next meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 2 at 6:30pm at the Water Plant Conference Room, 1405 County Road 1. Ms. Grant hopes SAC is given an update on the Jones-Edmunds & Associates Stormwater Plan. Chair Fasnacht asked Ms. Grant to inform SAC about reports of a broken weir at the northwest corner of Lake Sue-Mar.

Committee on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Report (Hans Hillestad): No report was given as Mr. Hillestad was not present.

Old Business:

- Officer Elections:
 - **Motion #2** (Secretary McLaughlin): Nominate & Elect the following officer slate: Ms. Humphreys as Chair, Mr. Johantges as Vice-Chair, & Mr. McLaughlin will remain as Secretary through March 2020. Ms. Jennings seconded. With no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.
- Term Limits: Mr. Fasnacht agreed to remain a regular member for another term and Ms. Grant also agreed to remain as a regular member. The City Commission had apparently reappointed both the week before (see note at top).
- Excused absences:
 - **Motion #3** (Mr. Fasnacht): Excuse the absences of Ms. Moore & Ms. Hillestad. Ms. Jennings seconded. With no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.
- Annual Report: Mr. Fasnacht presented his draft HAC annual report for comments. The report is required to be submitted by March 31 annually to the City Commission per Resolution 03-11. The submitted Report is attached to these minutes.

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- **Motion #4** (Chair Humphreys): Approve submitting the HAC Annual Report to the City Commission as amended with discussed changes. Mr. Johantges seconded. With no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

- City Herbicide Spraying: Sue Wallace noted that the City had sprayed in her backyard and on her 6' high fence which borders Hammock Park. She asked whether she can maintain the vegetation on the Park side of the fence to avoid overspray affecting her property.
- Harris Tract parking: Ms. Jennings noted that parking at the Harris Tract is tight at only about 4 spaces. Ms. Sheets noted that the City is planning to relocate bollards to allow more parking, at least double current capacity. The picnic table has also been removed to minimize "hanging out" by unscrupulous couples.
- Chair Humphreys asked Ms. Sheets to have the City arborist look at a low pine tree hanging over the Mira Vista entrance. The tree appears to be dead and should be removed.
- Michael Pardo noted several low areas and holes along the Kettles Trail that tend to get muddy. Ms. Sheets cleared up a long-standing theory about shell fill on trails changing the chemistry of the Park ecosystems and said that it has been determined not to affect it. She did note that the City uses washed shell and doesn't apply it in wetland areas.
- Linda Antonini inquired about the City emailing or notifying abutters when spraying herbicides within Hammock Park. Stephen Dean also requested to be noticed should abutters start receiving spray notices.

Motion #5 (Chair Humphreys): Motioned to adjourn. Ms. Jennings seconded. With no discussion, the motion passed unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 7:22pm.

Next Meeting: **Monday, April 8, 2019** at 6:30pm Dunedin Community Center Meeting Room, 1920 Pinehurst Rd, Dunedin, Florida.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary Chris McLaughlin.

2018 Annual Report — Hammock Advisory Committee

March 2019

Dunedin City commission

Mayor Julie Ward Bujalski; Vice Mayor Maureen “Moe” Freaney; Commissioners Jeff Gow, Heather Gracy, Deborah Kynes.

The Hammock Advisory Committee (HAC) every second Monday at 6:30 PM, at the Dunedin Community Center. Lalena Sheets (Parks and Recreation) attends the meetings as our liaison to Dunedin Parks and Recreation. Elizabeth Grant reports on the Storm Water Committee activities and Hans Hillstead attends and reports on the CEQ meetings. Vince Gizzi, Director, attends on occasion as well as other interested persons and guests.

At the January meeting of the HAC, the committee reviewed resolution 03-11 and the group met with approval of adherence to goals. In addition the group approved the slate of officers including appointing Chris McLaughlin as secretary and Jim Polgar as vice-chair.

In February and March, the HAC renewed attention on the far eastern part of the Hammock referred to as the Harris Tract. The original trail that was made upon the tract’s purchase ran from the parking lot to the footbridge with a spur going north to Lake Suemar. In the months since, this ‘spur’ trail was left to overgrow. Several members committed to studying the possibility of either re-opening the trail or constructing a new one. During these spring meeting, Ms. Lanie Sheets informed the group that getting city resources to do so would be difficult. The item remains open for visitation, however by this group, especially since the money and effort involved would be minimal.

Also in March, the topic of golf carts in the hammock arouse, as many carts have found ways around park barriers to drive in the park’s roads and trails. The group recommended improved placement of barriers to keep the carts from entering and destroying vegetation on the smaller trails. The city has challenges as many carts have found ways into the park using private property which it can’t control. Improvements in the Harris tract area seems to be effective, however. In the areas that still sees cart action, increased patrol enforcement is recommended.

The Fern Trail improvement project (still the biggest park improvement activity at this point) has been delayed by the project scope variation, and thus by the bidding process. The Friends of the Hammock funds raised thus far is being held and is still slated for donation towards the trail improvements. It is our hope that the trail can move forward in incremental amounts with the most wet areas being improved first, and the following as time and money permits.

The orange red Asian air potato leaf beetle (*Lilioceris cheni*) introduced to control the destructive invasive air potato plant in 2013 had been difficult to find in 2018, and their host plant had begun to regrow. Thus, another 400 beetles were released in August, and results were quickly noticed. This 'maintenance' dose of beetles should be continued at intervals determined by Parks and Recreation.

Several members from the Friends of the Hammock, Inc. have been helping with invasive removal as well as taking over the Butterfly Garden responsibilities, providing monetary donations, manpower, advocacy, education and park improvements such as new benches, info kiosks, etc. They are a vital asset to the park.

Lastly, one of the most important projects this group can take on is oversight of the management plan. The photo project (which involves taking pictures at certain areas over time to accumulate a photographic record) and a hydration monitoring program is informally ongoing. However, the management plan has detailed maintenance recommendations written in, and those should be reviewed and updated in conjunction with Parks and Recreation yearly. Treatment of invasive plants is one of the more important topics concerning this committee (as in the past), and several HAC members have reported widespread dead areas of ground cover. We recommend a combination of targeted spraying and hand removal (along with natural predators such as the potato beetles) which has been effective over the years. It's critical that these be coordinated among all parties for safety of park volunteers.

We thank the Commission for your continued support.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Fasnacht". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and "F".

Steve Fasnacht
Chairperson, Hammock Advisory Committee