

## City of Dunedin Hammock Advisory Committee (HAC)

Meeting Minutes – July 13, 2020

Held via City of Dunedin Zoom webinar ID 910 0649 9649 (due to COVID-19 Pandemic)  
HAC Meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Mondays of January, March, May, July, September & November

**HAC Members present:** Susan Humphreys (Chair), Chris McLaughlin (Secretary), Patricia Jennings, Pam Hillestad, Elizabeth Grant, Steve Fasnacht & Robert Spangler (Alternate – logged in, no sound).

**Absences:** Donna Moore (Excused).

**Vacancies:** The 2<sup>nd</sup> Alternate position remains vacant as it has been since January 2019.

**City Staff:** Lanie Sheets (Parks and Recreation Superintendent).

Meeting called to order at 6:30pm by Chair Humphreys with 8 people present.

### Housekeeping Notes:

- A quorum was present in accordance with City Resolution 03-11, General Provisions, Section 1.
- Due to the City-wide state of emergency regarding the COVID-19 Pandemic, the May 2020 HAC meeting was cancelled.

**Meeting Minutes:** The March 9, 2020 HAC Minutes were reviewed. **Motion #1** (Ms. Jennings): Approve the Minutes as submitted. Ms. Grant seconded. With no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

### Board Roster & Election of Officers (Chair Humphreys):

- In the March 2020 minutes, it was reported that on March 17 the City Commission was expected to appoint Mr. Spangler to the Member position that had been vacant since December 2019 as Ms. Moore desired to remain an Alternate. City policy however required Ms. Moore to move from her Alternate position to Member and Mr. Spangler was appointed as an Alternate. Chair Humphreys had discussed the situation with the City Clerk but the situation will remain as described above.
- Election of Officers was discussed, there were no immediate volunteers to fill the vacant Vice-Chair position.

### Supervisor's Report (Ms. Sheets):

- **Picnic Shelters:** The replacement of the shelters is 90% complete with some electrical work and sidewalk pouring yet to be completed.
- **Fern Trail Boardwalk:** The COVID-19 Pandemic has delayed materials for this project and it will likely be August before work can commence.
- **Integrated Vegetation Management:** The City is working with Pinellas County and neighboring municipalities to control exotics in an organized approach. Pinellas County is finalizing a policy to work on the least invasive methods first and the result will be a guiding document in putting exotics control back out to bid. It was noted that Hammock Park was beginning to see the return of exotics and non-native species such as air potatoes.
- **City Staffing:** The staff at the City is reported by the City Manager as being "thin" in a recent budget meeting. Furloughs are a possibility if the current economic conditions persist.

**Stormwater Advisory Committee (SAC) Report** (Ms. Grant): The most recent SAC meeting in April was cancelled due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The next SAC meeting is to be held on July 14 (tomorrow). The Jones Edmunds & Associates Stormwater Master Plan was completed and presented to the City Commission by City of Dunedin Environmental Manager Whitney Marsh on June 16 (Meeting Agenda, Item #4: [https://dunedin.granicus.com/AgendaViewer.php?view\\_id=6&clip\\_id=2438](https://dunedin.granicus.com/AgendaViewer.php?view_id=6&clip_id=2438)).

The specific City memo for the meeting is here and links to each part of the presentation are included:

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<https://d2kkoa27fdvtw.cloudfront.net/dunedin/f048785cdb6bc006b5ddfeded0d1bc620.pdf>

**Committee on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Report** (Vacant): There was no report and a quick look at recent CEQ minutes appeared to show noting related to Hammock Park.

### Old Business:

- Hammock Waterways (New Business from March meeting)
  - Harvard Bridge area has erosion on its banks.
  - Mr. Fasnacht noted that the quality of fauna has decreased in Cedar Creek, from diminishing sightings of crabs to fish.
- Members were urged to review the Master Stormwater Plan to see if it addresses Cedar Creek and to bring pointed questions to the next HAC meeting. The link in the SAC Report above will lead you to a “searchable” PDF file, the Member can search the PDF with keywords such as “Hammock” or “Cedar” to pinpoint specific topics.

### New Business:

- Waterways: Recap of the Waterway discussion described in Old Business above.
- Gopher Tortoises: Based on George Heinrich’s Report, 22 tortoise burrows (including 8 juvenile burrows) were found in the field adjacent to Our Lady of Lourdes (OLOR) Church within the Hammock Park boundary. One theory for the density of these burrows is the lack of underbrush clearing in their old nesting areas further inside the Park. The HAC suggested fencing be installed and signs to be moved from the old area to the new area to place visitors and maintenance crews on notice to their presence.
- Prescribed Burning status: Possibly due to a lack of prescribed burns in this habitat, the tortoises may be migrating to open areas near the boundary.
- Cardinal Entrance: The City’s long-term plan is to have access to Hammock Park from the south along the northerly extension of Cardinal Drive. This will have to be done in partnership with OLOR.
- **Motion #2** (Ms. Hillestad): Recommend that the City install snow fencing and move signs to the OLOR area within Hammock Park to protect tortoise burrows. Ms. Jennings seconded. With no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

There were no Public comments.

Chair Humphreys adjourned the meeting at 7:39pm.

Next Scheduled Meeting: **Monday, September 14, 2020** at 6:30pm, location to be determined – either online or in person at the Dunedin Community Center Meeting Room, 1920 Pinehurst Rd, Dunedin, Florida.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary Chris McLaughlin.