



Village of Biscayne Park Commission Agenda Report

Village Commission Meeting Date: February 2, 2016

Subject: Resolution 2016-02 Opposing Bear Hunting

Prepared By: Mayor David Coviello

Sponsored By: Mayor David Coviello

Background:

Following the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission's adoption of a Bear Management Plan Rule in 2015 that included a bear hunt, several cities in Florida including South Miami, Pinecrest, Clermont, Davie, Deltona and Palmetto Bay, recently sponsored resolutions opposing future bear hunting in Florida.

Biscayne Park is a bird sanctuary and has a reputation for treating wildlife with respect, therefore support for a resolution opposing the FFWC's action to permit future bear hunting is brought forward for the Commission's consideration.

Recommendation:

Approval

Attachments:

- Resolution 2016-02
- Red Flag Magazine Article: Remember Me (<https://redflag.org/2015/12/remember-me/>)

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3 **RESOLUTION NO. 2016-02**
4

5 **A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE**
6 **COMMISSION OF THE VILLAGE OF**
7 **BISCAYNE PARK, FLORIDA OPPOSING THE**
8 **FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE**
9 **COMMISSION'S ACTION TO PERMIT BEAR**
10 **HUNTING, AND REQUESTING THE**
11 **INTERVENTION OF THE GOVERNOR AND**
12 **THE STATE LEGISLATURE; PROVIDING FOR**
13 **AN EFFECTIVE DATE**
14

15
16 WHEREAS, the Village of Biscayne Park and its citizens endeavor to be good stewards
17 of the environment and its resources, including its wildlife; and,
18

19 WHEREAS, in 2012, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FFWC) removed the
20 Florida black bear from Florida's Endangered and Threatened Species List; and,
21

22 WHEREAS, in 2015, the FFWC adopted a Bear Management Plan Rule that included a
23 bear hunt; and,
24

25 WHEREAS, the 2015 FFWC Rule, by its very nature in granting unlimited permits,
26 created a mechanism that allowed the killing of more than the stated limitation of bears.
27 Realistic monitoring measures were not in place to ensure that the thousands of anticipated
28 hunters would cease their efforts when reaching the Bear Management Unit limits.
29 Additionally, the Stated taxed hunters for more permits than the bears that they were allowed
30 to kill; and,
31

32 WHEREAS, the FFWC's decision to allow bear hunting was based on outdated (13
33 year old) date; and,
34

35 WHEREAS, this decision created overwhelming opposition from citizens and
36 environmental groups throughout the State; and,
37

38 WHEREAS, during the 2015 hunt, lactating female bears were killed, leaving orphaned
39 cubs living in the wild as prey; and,
40

41 WHEREAS, during the 2015 hunt, actual kill rates far exceeded approved quotas in two
42 of the four Bear Management Units (BMUs); and,
43

44 WHEREAS, future bear hunts will serve to thwart and undo the past efforts of the
45 FFWC and others to promote this previously endangered or threatened species; and
46

47 WHEREAS, the Village of Biscayne Park would like to recognize FFWC
48 Commissioner Ron Bergeron for his stance in opposing the bear hunt in Florida and speaking
49 out against the ruling.

1
2
3 **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE VILLAGE COMMISSION**
4 **OF THE VILLAGE OF BISCAYNE PARK, FLORIDA:**
5

6 **Section 1.** The foregoing "WHEREAS" clauses are true and correct and hereby
7 ratified and confirmed by the Village Commission.
8

9 **Section 2.** The Village of Biscayne Park does hereby urge the FFWC to refrain
10 from approving future bear hunts.
11

12 **Section 3.** The Village Commission further resolves and requests that the Governor
13 of the State of Florida and the State Legislature intervene as may be appropriate to address the
14 concerns stated herein.
15

16 **Section 4.** The Village Commission does further direct the Village Clerk to send
17 copies of this Resolution to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, Governor Rick Scott,
18 Florida Senate President Andy Gardiner, and Florida Speaker of the house Steve Crisafulli.
19

20 **Section 5. Severability.** If any section clause, sentence, or phrase of this resolution
21 is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, the
22 holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this resolution.
23

24 **Section 6. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become effective upon adoption.
25

26 PASSED AND ADOPTED this ___ day of _____, 2016.

27
28 **The foregoing resolution upon being**
29 **put to a vote, the vote was as follows:**
30

31 _____
32 David Coviello, Mayor

33
34 Attest:

35
36
37 _____
38 Maria C. Camara, Village Clerk
39
40

41 Approved as to form:
42
43
44

45 _____
46 John J. Hearn, Village Attorney

Mayor Coviello: ____
Vice Mayor Watts: ____
Commissioner Anderson: ____
Commissioner Jonas: ____
Commissioner Ross: ____

REMEMBER ME

Posted on December 21st, 2015

Home > Articles > Featured > Remember Me

Posted by Melanie Oliva



"Empathy is really important... Only when our clever brain and our human heart work together in harmony can we achieve our true potential." These words from Dr. Jane Goodall¹ might just be the formula for saving Florida Black Bears. At least, that's what six artists hope.

As realist artist J W Baker explains, there is an "unacknowledged sentience that exists within all living creatures." Inspired by his own encounters, J W's paintings give these naturally curious beings a voice all can relate to. The title "Remember Me" suggests what the last living bear might say if he could speak.

Drawn together by dismay over the Florida Black Bear hunt, myself and five artists want you to care as much about this unique subspecies as we do. We believe Florida's 3,000 black bears have as much right to live as its 20 million humans. If you knew that these bears were in fact recently endangered, you might understand why we are working together to give them a voice.² With Goodall's wisdom in mind, we wish to evoke your empathy and encourage you to speak out with us against next year's hunt.

Painter Lucas Lamemha of Pernambuco, Brazil has only been to Florida once, but doesn't hesitate when it comes to helping others. His painting suggests bears may wonder why they are targets when there are so few of them. Lamemha continues to help by incorporating this message into new work.

Artist and ecologist Mark Williams believes that animals communicate through signs that most of us cannot see. In his series "Call of the Wild" he suggests
<https://redflag.org/2015/12/remember-me/>

Artist and sculptor Herb Williams theorizes that animals communicate through signs that most of us cannot see. In his series "Call of the Wild," he suggests their language is more colorful than we might think.

Photographer Chris Norcott understands bears very well, as he's spent many years observing them. His mission is to capture and share their journey, which from his experience is not much different than ours. Norcott states, "Black bears are gentle, timid creatures, but they do have their own rules of etiquette, which we need to learn and understand in order to peacefully coexist with them."

Leif Erik Johansen has seen the effects of wildlife displacement firsthand. The bear who visits his yard in North Carolina in search of food has inspired surreal works that examine our relationship with nature. He proposes everyone treat bears the way he does, with respect.

Respecting the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's decision to open a hunt on black bears after 21 years³ is something I find difficult to do. The FWC made close to \$400,000 from permit sales.⁴ Ponder this question: *Which is more important in our society – financial gain or the environment?* As I illustrate in my painting "The Greater Green" (2014), the answer can be turned either way – depending on who's holding the coin.

We plan to coordinate an exhibit to further connect hearts and minds on this issue. Florida residents who would like to help are urged to ask their mayors to sponsor a resolution in support of the bears and respective senators to stand behind the Florida Black Bear Restoration Act 1096 of 2016.

For more information and ways to help follow the links below.

Image Credits: Slide show **image 1:** "The Bear and the Hummingbird", © 2012 J W Baker | **image 2:** "The Beekeeper and the Bear", © 2014 Leif Erik Johansen | leiferikjohansen.com | IG: @leiferik40 | **image 3:** photo of a Florida Black Bear and cub © 2015 Chris Norcott | chrisnorcott.com | IG: @chrisnorcottphotography | **image 4:** (left) "The Greater Green", © 2015 Melanie Oliva | melanieoliva.com | IG: @melanieolivaartist & @inspirationpollination (right) photo of a Florida Black Bear by Chris Norcott | **image 5:** "Stop Black Bear Hunting", © 2015 Lucas Lamenna | 5am.ag | IG: @lucaslamenna_artist | **image 6:** "Remember me", © 2014 J W Baker | www.jwbart.com. Thumbnail image by Herb Williams.

Action Links:

<http://stopfbearhunt.com>

http://www.speakupwekiva.com/Stop_the_Black_Bear_Hunt.html

<https://www.facebook.com/SaveFLBears>

SOURCES

1 NOVA's series The Secret Life of Scientists and Engineers.

2 <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/2015/10/151023-black-bear-hunt-florida-animals-conservation/>

3 <http://myfwc.com/news/resources/fact-sheets/bear-hunting/>

4 <http://www.nydailynews.com/news/national/hunters-kill-295-black-bears-two-day-florida-hunt-article-1.2411330>

COMMENTS

4 Comments

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Linda Cooper

Thank you all for raising awareness of the Florida black bear. I will share this.



Like · Reply · Dec 22, 2015 8:36am



Amy Reznik · University of South Florida

Beautiful art! I hope your work inspires others to work towards stopping the hunt!

Like · Reply · Dec 22, 2015 12:02pm



Daily Kumquat

We will most certainly remember. Thank you for a beautiful contribution to the campaign for our bears.

Like · Reply · Dec 22, 2015 3:19pm



Marilyn C. Pazos · St. Agnes Academy Alumnae Association

Great article. We need to stop the hunt!

Like · Reply · Dec 26, 2015 2:29pm

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