



Village of Biscayne Park

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Board Members

Karen Cohen
Chair

Matt Davis
Vice Chair

Tom Pliske
Marie Smith
Richie Strassberg

MINUTES

Ecology Board

Thursday, March 22, 2012

Ed Burke Recreation Center

11400 NE 9th Court Biscayne Park, Florida

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 PM by Chairperson Karen Cohen

Present: Tom Pliske, Matt Davis, Karen Cohen, Marie Smith and Richie Strassberg

Attending in addition was the Parks and Parkways Board, inasmuch as the agenda for the evening contained matters of interest to both boards. (+ commissioner Anderson?)

The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS: The proposal for the habitat island in the median of NE 116th St. between 8th and 9th Avenues was discussed. A budget of \$250.00 was proposed to cover costs of native plants. There was further discussion about maintenance of the plants for the first few months, and we agreed that we would need help of the landscape crews to make the project a success. A large tree planting is scheduled for the 116th St. site, and everyone agreed that it would be a good idea to synchronize that event with the installation of the habitat island

The native plant sale scheduled for April 28 was tentatively rescheduled for June 2

The DERM visit to collect hazardous wastes was discussed and deemed risky. Further consideration of this service will be taken up at a later meeting.

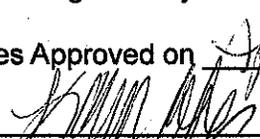
NEW BUSINESS: There was a lengthy discussion of a recently passed Village resolution concerning the fate of the old Australian pines which line several Village streets. Members of both boards explored whether the aesthetic values of these trees merited special status as "historic trees", but this was counterbalanced by the fact that Australian pines are classified as invasive exotics. Commissioner Anderson pointed out that MDC is responsible only for maintenance and removal of the pines on Griffing Blvd., and that the Village did not have funds for removing any others should they die and pose a hazard. In the end the Ecology Board made a general recommendation regarding the resolution on Australian pines, expressed in the following motion put forward by Matt Davis.

We oppose the resolution as written. We recommend that care and maintenance of existing trees be given priority, and that as trees need to be replaced, replacement with a variety of native species be the priority.

The motion was passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM, the next meeting being scheduled for 19 April.

Minutes Approved on

April 19, 2012


Karen Cohen, Chair