

MINUTES OF THE HAMMOCK ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Dunedin Community Center
Monday, March 11, 2024 / 6:30 pm

Members Present: Camille Evans, Steve Fasnacht, Donna Harmony Jones, Clare Kibler, Jim McGinity, Robert Spangler, Alan Veach

City Staff Present: Lanie Sheets, Rick Warner

Other Attendees: Kerri O'Brien

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Robert Spangler called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

1. ADMINISTRATIVE

- a. Approval of Minutes – Chair Spangler announced the agenda item and asked if anyone had any additions, deletions, or corrections to the minutes. Steve mentioned his name was spelled wrong. Chair Spangler asked for a motion.

MOTION: Motion was made by Donna and seconded by Steve to approve the January 8, 2024 minutes as amended.

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

2. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Annual Business
 - i. Annual Elections: Motion was made by Alan, seconded by Donna, and carried unanimously to approve the following:
 - Chair: Robert Spangler
 - Vice Chair: Steve Fasnacht
 - Secretary: Camille Evans
 - ii. Annual Report: Motion was made by Camille, seconded by Jim, and carried unanimously to approve the 2023 Annual Report – Hammock Advisory Committee submitted by Chair Spangler.
 - iii. Annual Review of Resolution: Members confirmed that they had reviewed the Hammock Advisory Committee Active Enacting Resolution 03-11, which provides for a citizens committee to serve in an advisory capacity to the City Commission and City Manager. The primary duties are to analyze environmental and ecological conditions and make recommendations to protect and preserve Hammock Park.
 - iv. Annual Meeting Calendar: Members agreed to the meeting dates provided with the exception of moving the November meeting due to the Veterans Day holiday. Meetings will be held on March 11, May 13, July 8, September 9, and November 12, 2024.
- b. Educational Signs: Camille gave a presentation regarding signs at the park.

- i. There are currently 11 signs focused on topics ranging from ferns to palms to gopher tortoises. The signs are informative, colorful, and engaging.
- ii. Camille suggested cleaning the signs, replacing the damaged Fantasy of Flight sign, and adding some new signs incorporating photographs and minimal text to educate visitors, inspire stewardship, and strengthen appreciation of local flora and fauna. Possible topics: Owls, water birds, native plants, nests, and otters.
- iii. Lanie said there are plans to move the gopher tortoise sign from Palm/Gopher to Highland Trail.
- iv. Kerri O'Brien (Friends of the Hammock President) said the Friends helped pay for the signs, and she may be able to find a grant to fund future signs. She suggested topics such as reptiles, bats, and insects such as dragonflies.
- v. Jim asked about providing an audio tour for visitors using a QR code. Clare mentioned the Florida Stories Audio Tours which are city/community walking tours using a free app and the possibility of doing this at Hammock.
- vi. Lanie will report next time on the age/cost/vendor for the current signs and possible costs for new signs. Members will bring their ideas regarding signs.

3. OLD BUSINESS

None

4. REPORTS

- a. Supervisor's Report
 - i. Introduction of the new City Arborist Rick Warner
 - ii. Kyle Frazho has joined Kheim Lee as a second Horticulture Technician working at Hammock Park to remove invasive species.

5. OPEN FLOOR

- a. Chair Spangler said the sensitive area signs and branch/wood piles are working well to block unofficial footpaths. The area by the church is still a problem with bike paths. He suggested blocking those with extra brush if possible.
- b. Discussion of eBikes at the park causing damage and safety concerns. Chair Spangler suggested that bicycles be limited to certain trails such as Skinner and Grant. Alan asked about posting bike speed limit signs.
- c. Clare asked about the committee's role. Other members said that we are not expected to confront visitors but to report issues at our meetings.
- d. Donna shared concerns about erosion east of Harvard Creek.
- e. Camille asked if a trash can could be added at Highland and Grant.

6. NEXT MEETING

- a. The next committee meeting is scheduled for May 13, 2024.
- b. The topics will include educational signs.

ADJOURN MEETING

Motioned by Donna and seconded by Steve to adjourn at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Camille Evans

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