

**ELMS PROPERTY  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
10:30 A.M. OCTOBER 9, 2008  
Minutes**

Members present were Denis Canavan, Kim Howe, on behalf of Brad Clements; Marianne Chapman, Gayle Moreland on behalf of Pete Dunbar, Phil Rollins, David Heilmier, David Gailey, and Steve Riley.

Dr. Robert Paul was excused.

Others present were Margarita Rochow, Elms Environmental Center; Jim Bennett, Wildlife and Heritage Division; Tyrone Harris and David Gailey, Recreation and Parks; Bill Reabe, Citizen; and Craig Buse, Citizen.

Mr. Canavan called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. and asked for additions or amendments to the agenda.

**I. Approval of Minutes – 7/14/08**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of 7/14/08 as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

**II. Unfinished Business**

- a. Update on Signage:** Ms. Howe stated it was the schools understanding that DNR would provide signage and the schools would put the new signage up. Mr. Heilmier stated he was unaware of this and stated DNR would not provide the signage however would mark the hunting and public use area with yellow paint.

Mr. Reabe stated the new maps do not provide rules for the new area lines. Mr. Heilmier stated we have to make the map match what's on the ground and additional signage will not do. Mr. Heilmier stated he would clarify with Power Plant that yellow paint is acceptable. Ms. Moreland stated yellow paint is acceptable. Ms. Howe stated the old signs need to come down. Mr. Heilmier stated he and Ms. Howe could coordinate a day and proper staff to remove the old signs. Mr. Reabe asked that more yellow paint be placed as the old white paint was not clear in some areas. Mr. Heilmier stated the lines would be clearly delineated with the yellow paint. Mr. Heilmier affirmed the lease line area would be marked within 30 days.

- b. Kiosk Ideas and Information:** Mr. Rollins stated he did not get a chance to put something together. Mr. Bennett stated the keeping information on the kiosk is a struggle as vandalism occurs on a regular basis. Mr. Canavan asked if the park attendant could contact DNR when this type of vandalism occurs.

**RECESS:** The Committee took a five minute recess to view horses on the beach while children are present at the Elms Environmental Education Center. Heilmier stated if horses are a problem the area needs to be properly posted so if someone violates the signage the police can be called. Mr. Canavan stated a policy needs to be accepted to allow after-school use of the property and signs need to be posted accordingly.

**CONTINUED DISCUSSION:** Ms. Howe asked if a copy of the timeframe and what can be hunted could be posted on the kiosk. Mr. Heilmier stated he can provide a copy to the school and board members however this is too much information to be posted on the kiosk.

- c. **Update on Trails:** Ms. Rochow stated they will begin constructing the freshwater streams trail this month and the forest trail afterwards. Mr. Riley asked if approval for the trails was received from (CEQ). Mr. Canavan stated he was unaware of any requirements for these trails however would look into this.

### III. New Business

- a. **Hunt Permit System Eliminate Reservation Requirement:** Mr. Heilmier stated hunter access is controlled by requiring the hunter to call the office and make a reservation each time they want to hunt. Mr. Heilmier stated this is suitable for areas where the hunter demand exceeds the carrying capacity of the property on a regular basis however for the Elms property this is more of an inconvenience to DNR staff and the hunter. Mr. Heilmier recommended this reservation requirement be discontinued. Mr. Bennett stated the parking pass and sign in sheet would be sufficient for hunting on the Elms property. Ms. Moreland stated the Elms Management Plan clearly states a permit and a reservation are needed to hunt on the Elms property and it is a lengthy process to get the management plan amended. It was suggested DNR deal with this issue on their end rather than trying to amend the management plan. After a very lengthy discussion it was decided to simply change the name of the parking pass to read reservation and parking pass which would alleviate the requirement to call in each time a hunter wants to hunt the Elms property and would not require the management plan to be changed.
- b. **By-Law Sub-Committee:** To be discussed at the next meeting.
- c. **Update by Phil Rollins:** Mr. Rollins introduced Mr. David Guyther and Mr. Tyrone Harris who deal with the Elms Beach Park. Mr. Guyther stated the Fourth of July weekend was very hectic and traffic and trash, were an issue. Mr. Guyther stated the usage is steadily increasing and additional staff is needed. Mr. Guyther stated the pond is backing up into the park at times which is a safety issue and asked if there is anything that can be done. Mr. Gailey stated the backing up of the pond is a natural occurrence and any type of intervention is illegal. Mr. Heilmier recommended contacting the Critical Area Commission for additional recommendations and advice.

Mr. Harris stated on holidays additional toilets are needed as well as policing. Mr. Harris stated with the additional costs a booth to collect a fee is being considered and Mr. Rollins plans to take this request to the County Commissioners.

- d. **Board of County Commissioners Status Report:** Mr. Canavan stated the Commissioners have requested a status report which he plans to present in November. Mr. Canavan stated possible items to be discussed would include the new lease line, hunting in the northern 13 acres, status on trail system, signage and kiosk information, usage and patronage of the park, increase of educational usage, number of children being served, and the natural opening and closing of the pond. Mr. Canavan stated he would let the members know of the exact date this information would be presented to the Commissioners and invited them all to attend the meeting when it occurs.

### IV. Next Steps

- V. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 1:11 p.m. The next meeting will be held on January 21, 2009.