

**ELMS PROPERTY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
10:30 A.M. APRIL 22, 2009
Minutes**

Members present were Phil Rollins, Derick Berlage, David Heilmeier, Marianne Chapman, Sandi Patty on behalf of Pete Dunbar, Brad Clements, and Steve Riley.

Members absent were David Gailey and Robert Paul.

Others present were Phil Shire, LUGM; Margarita Rochow, Elms Environmental Center; Kurt Reitz, SMCPs Elms; Gayle Moreland, PPAD.

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

I. Approval of Minutes – 1/21/09

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of 1/21/09 as presented. The motion passed without opposition.

II. New Business

- a. County Commissioner Status Report:** Mr. Rollins stated the County Commissioners were briefed on 3/31/09 at which time they advised John Savich to have a smaller group look at a resolution for use of the property. Mr. Rollins stated John Savich, Michael Martirano, Brad Clements and myself met to discuss possible options. Mr. Rollins stated the group came up with a solution and at the direction of John Savich presented this to the County Commissioner yesterday who ultimately voted in favor. Mr. Rollins provided a packet of information that was presented to the County Commissioners yesterday.

Mr. Clements stated the group focused on safety, program amenities and increasing the acreage for hunting purposes. Mr. Clements stated the group identified 85 acres on the southern portion of the leased property which could be used for bow hunting only. Mr. Clements explained each handout in the packet and explained the 13 acres in the northern portion of the property has bald eagle nests therefore it was recommended this acreage remain in tact with the environmental education center for the children to study and observe.

Mr. Rollins stated John Savich contacted Pete Dunbar and Paul Peditto to make them aware of the request to have DNR manage hunting on the property. Mr. Rollins stated the County is basically waiting to hear from DNR and PPRP.

Mr. Berlage asked what the reaction of the hunters is regarding this proposal. Mr. Riley stated this is basically the same proposal he brought forth three years ago. Mr. Riley stated the hunters would prefer to use other weapons on this portion of property however this is an acceptable compromise. Mr. Riley stated as long as the same management practices are used there should be no issues. Mr. Riley commented that since David Heilmeier took over, things have changed for the better and thanked Mr. Heilmeier for all his help and support. Mr. Riley stated the southern portion of land is also nice because it has its own access so hunters will not have to pass over environmental education or the park area to go hunting.

Mr. Rollins stated he is unsure what will happen if DNR refuses to manage hunting on the 85 acres and stated the County Commissioners could possibly go back to the lease agreement. Ms. Patty asked for clarification of Mr. Rollins statement. Mr. Rollins stated at yesterday's meeting the County Commissioners asked what would happen if DNR refused to manage hunting on the 85 acres. Mr. Rollins stated the County Administrator, John Savich responded going back to the lease agreement may be necessary if DNR refuses to manage the 85 acres.

Mr. Clements stated his office is working on a memorandum of understanding for management of the property. Ms. Patty recommended submitting a legal request to DNR requesting they manage hunting on the 85 acres. Ms. Patty stated the County Commissioners need to send a formal request.

- b. Draft By-Law Review:** Ms. Stuckert stated she emailed Sandi Patty a boiler plate set of by-laws which she revised to the Committee's needs. Ms. Stuckert stated the red markings indicate corrections she has made in anticipation of legal review. Ms. Stuckert stated County Legal has been reviewing all Board and Committee By-

Laws to make them more uniform. It was the consensus of the Committee to table review of the by-laws to the July meeting for action.

- c. Status Report on Park and Playground Vandalism:** Mr. Rollins explained the damage done last month at the Elms Beach Park stating insurance estimators have estimated \$9,300.00 in damages. Mr. Rollins stated the police have apprehended one juvenile whose court date is set for 5/14/09 and two adults whose court dates have not been set yet. Mr. Rollins stated he is estimating it will take four to six weeks to repair all the damage and re-open the park.

Mr. Riley asked if we still planned to name the pavilion after Mr. Canavan. Mr. Rollins stated in reviewing this with the Parks and Recreation Board it was found there is no policy in place for naming structures within a park. Mr. Rollins stated without a policy in place it could open a door where everyone wants something named after them. Mr. Rollins stated this item was tabled indefinitely. Mr. Clements stated the school has a naming policy for items such as trees and benches which could be an option. Ms. Patty stated for \$25.00 per person a native forest could be planted in Denis's name. Ms. Stuckert asked Ms. Patty to forward information regarding the native forest to her.

Mr. Rollins stated Parks and Recreation will be proposing a fee be charged for the use of Elms Beach Park at next Tuesday's County Commissioner's meeting. Mr. Rollins stated we are proposing a fee of \$5.00 for County residents and \$8.00 for non-County residents for all weekends and holidays.

III. Unfinished Business

- a. Update on Signage:** Mr. Riley asked if placing bilingual signs would be useful at the park area. Mr. Rollins stated this is something the Park and Recreation Board should discuss. Ms. Rochow stated when she calls the police to report ATV's on the property the police are asking if the property is posted. Ms. Rochow stated the leased area should be posted. Mr. Clements stated once the lease area is agreed upon signs will be posted. Mr. Heilmeier stated the State property will be posted this summer.
- b. Update on Trails:** Ms. Rochow stated we are working on the master trail plan with the Critical Area Commission. Ms. Rochow stated the plan is going to be phased in over time.
- c. Miscellaneous:** Ms. Chapman stated this Committee has been meeting for 30 years now and have completed the original tasks assigned to them. Ms. Chapman recommended considering ending this Committee and forming a new Committee to move forward with the new regulations under the new 25 year lease agreement. Ms. Chapman asked if this could be discussed in detail at the July meeting. Ms. Patty stated once the agreements are reached the County could set of their own Committee to manage the leased area in the future.

Ms. Stuckert advised the Committee that Dr. Robert Paul's daughter passed away in a tragic car accident on March 23, 2009. Ms. Stuckert provided a card for the members to sign and stated she would mail it right a way.

- IV. Next Meeting:** It was decided to hold the next meeting on July 15, 2009 at the Elms Center to begin at 10:30 a.m. Items to be discussed will be as follows:

Update on Board of County Commissioners Actions
By-Laws
Make up of the Committee
Status of Park
Site Walk – Weather Permitting

- V. Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:54 a.m.