

**ELMS PROPERTY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
10:30 A.M. JANUARY 21, 2009
Minutes**

Members present were Phil Shire, Brad Clements, Marianne Chapman, Sandi Patty on behalf of Pete Dunbar, Phil Rollins, Steve Riley, and Mark Muir on behalf of David Gailey.

Members absent were David Heilmier and Dr. Robert Paul.

Others present were Margarita Rochow, Elms Environmental Center; Kurt Reitz, EMCPS Elms; Kim Howe, SMCPs; Niles Primrose, PPAD and Bill Reabe, Citizen.

Mr. Shire called the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m. and asked for additions or amendments to the agenda.

I. Approval of Minutes – 10/09/08

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of 10/09/08 as amended. The motion passed without opposition.

II. Unfinished Business

a. Update on Signage

- **Lease Line Delineation:** Ms. Stuckert stated Mr. Heilmier could not be here today however asked that the following information be relayed to the Committee. Ms. Stuckert stated the lease line boundary was marked within the 30 days and Wildlife and Heritage Division staff has gone back out to check the line. Ms. Stuckert stated the line is now thoroughly and intensively marked and is very obvious to see. Mr. Howe provided pictures of the marking and confirmed Ms. Stuckert's statement.

Mr. Shire asked for background information regarding the lease line. Mr. Riley used the map to explain the current lease line and delineate the 13.44 acres. Mr. Riley stated over time this lease line has been moved outward. Mr. Riley stated in the north and southern areas there were duck blinds however these have gone away now because this line keeps moving. Ms. Patty asked if the 13.44 acres had been voted on by the County Commissioners. Ms. Stuckert stated no it has not been before the Commissioners to date. Mr. Riley stated the whole issue is that we have gone back and forth on this subject for over five years now. Mr. Riley stated there is an overexpansion of the environmental center. Ms. Rochow stated there is plenty of State property to use for hunting. Mr. Riley stated we are discussing County property not State property. Mr. Riley stated the original draft plan clearly stated the County needed more County land for public hunting. Mr. Riley stated the new lease takes away 450 acres of land which this committee through the lease agreement legislated out hunting. Mr. Clements stated there is no hunting allowed on County property.

Ms. Patty stated we have badgered this item too much; the lease line is what it is; the hunting area is what it is; and we need to move away from this discussion. Ms. Patty informed the Committee that a possible power plant site on the western portion of the property is in the works however nothing has been finalized. Ms. Patty stated this possible power plant would be in line with the Governors Green Energy Policy.

- **Beach Park Postings:** Ms. Stuckert stated this item and the Elms Center postings were discussed at the January 10, 2008 meeting and the issue was never resolved. Mr. Rollins pointed out that this signage was to be located around the beach area. Mr. Clements stated there are signs on the beach. Ms. Howe stated DNR said they would not place signage regarding the safety zone. Mr. Clements stated trail signage will be needed in the future to mark the trails and to inform the public that there is an outdoor classroom in the area.
- **Elms Center Postings:** Please see above for full discussion.
 - **After School Policy:** This item was not discussed and should be discussed at the April meeting.

b. Kiosk Ideas and Information: Mr. Rollins stated he believes this item has been resolved.

c. Update on Trails: Mr. Reitz stated the trails are coming along. Ms. Howe explained SMCPs has been in contact with Sue Veith of LUGM to discuss the Buffer Management Plan for the trails, nursery, etc. for approval in the Critical Area. Ms. Howe stated the plan is to incorporate all future work into this Buffer Management Plan

to receive a blanket approval from the Critical Area Commission. Ms. Howe stated when the work is ready to be done all that would be needed is LUGM permit approval.

III. New Business

- a. **By-Law Sub-Committee:** Ms. Stuckert stated this item was discussed at the July 14, 2008 meeting where the Committee came to consensus that a sub-committee should be established to write and review by-laws for the Committee. Ms. Stuckert asked if this was still the consensus of the Committee. Ms. Patty stated she would work with Mr. Riley on the by-laws and asked if Ms. Stuckert could forward her a couple examples from other boards in the County.
- b. **Schedule Yearly Evening Meeting:** The Committee discussed the issues of holding an evening meeting. After discussion it was decided to reschedule the April 15, 2009 meeting to April 22, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. The regular meeting would be held from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. It was the consensus of the Committee to then hold the public informational tour from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Elms Park Beach. This meeting could include the Governor's Proclamation for Environmental Education Month.

Mr. Rollins proposed naming the picnic pavilion at the Elms Park Beach the "Denis Canavan Pavilion" in honor and recognition of all that Denis did for the Committee and the County related to the Elms property. It was the consensus of the Committee to move forward with this.

- c. **County Commissioner Status Report:** Mr. Rollins stated he received information from Ms. Stuckert however has not moved forward. Mr. Rollins stated he does not find it appropriate for one of the lease holders to brief the Commissioners. Ms. Patty asked if a written report could be submitted and if the County Commissioners have any questions they could invite this Committee to answer any questions they may have.
- IV. **Announcements:** Ms. Patty stated David Barnes who helped work on the Elms Management Plan was in a tragic boating accident and passed away. Ms. Patty stated his services would be held January 31, 2009.
- Ms. Patty stated PPRP is going before legislation for re-authorization this year and asked for support. Ms. Chapman made a motion to remind the County Commissioners to send a letter in support of the legislation. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.
- V. **Next Steps:** Annual Report
- VI. **Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m. The next meeting will be held on April 22, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. at the Elms Park Beach.