

**Conservation Collier Land Acquisition Advisory Committee
Meeting of the Education Subcommittee**

**Summary Minutes
September 13, 2016
North Collier Regional Park
15000 Livingston Road
Naples, FL 34109**

Audio File Available Upon Request

<u>Subcommittee Members</u>	<u>Staff</u>	<u>Public/Other Agency</u>
Susan Calkins (CS)	Alex Sulecki (AS) Conservation Collier	none
Bill Poteet (BP)		
John Psaras - Absent		

Items distributed:

- List of Educational Events Provided by staff between 2013 and the end of July, 2016
- Freedom Park PowerPoint Presentation - as example
- Gordon River Greenway PowerPoint Presentation – as example
- Gopher Tortoise PowerPoint Presentation –as example
- Conservation Collier Ordinance – 2007-65

The meeting commenced at 1:45p.m. Susan Calkins was unanimously elected Chairman

1. **Acceptance of Agenda:** Motion made and approved unanimously
2. **Old Business:** None
3. **New Business:**

AS – Reviewed her goals in asking for the subcommittee meeting:

- Gain a shared idea as to the role of Conservation Collier staff in education events
- Develop a description of what type of education services staff can offer
- Understand the expectations of the Conservation Collier Committee in regards to education programs and events based on ordinance direction. AS showed the ordinance (Ord 2007-65, Section 4.10) on the projection screen.

BP – Intent was to have children in the School system utilize preserves for education but it was not the intent of the committee to have our staff provide all the program time. We should develop a program where you invite educators in and give them an outline on what they can do on the preserves and then they take it from there and take the students. The teachers would develop the program for the event. There is not the need for as much interplay between staff and the students.

AS - Yes, additionally, I was thinking we should focus on our Program and our properties, instead of general environmental science. I don't think for example, that I should be going out to give a presentation of gopher tortoises or teach general environmental science. We maybe should better be taking them to the preserves and guiding them on the trail, if needed. We should maybe have a generic program for the Greenway or for Pepper Ranch.

BP - Have educators come to you. You have the program and it should be generic for all the schools.

SC – It would be great if you could get science teachers together for an afternoon.

AS – Went to School District earlier in the year and spoke with Science Coordinator. What he told me was that have certain subjects taught at specific grade levels through the year. We can welcome them to our preserves and coordinate with teachers on the topics. I was also thinking we need some kind of policy saying how many children we can handle. What I found is that it is difficult presenting to a walking group of 40 kids.

BP – Advised against setting guidelines. Better to leave that responsibility to the teachers and school.

SC – Do the schools themselves have that kind of policy?

BP – Yes, they do. Example - Parents have to have security clearance to work with kids.

AS - Additionally, the Grace Place events took up about 54 hours, about half of the whole years' educational events hours, and that seemed like a lot. I wanted to get some guidelines on how often one group could use us. Just want to develop an idea of how to limit things to what is reasonable.

BP – You don't want to stop service to Grace Place.

SC – You could advise that they are welcome to visit the preserves on their program time and let them know that if staff is available, someone could be there, but we do not lead the walks.

BP – Suggested attending a meeting of science staff within the school system – get some time and let them know what we can do for them. Science clubs may want to participate or volunteer. He suggested talking to Kamila Patton and advising what we can do, show what our ordinance says and tell her what we are trying to and see how we can work together to accomplish it given that we have limited resources and time.

SC – Clarified that she was hearing that staff would like to have some guidelines before going into such a meeting.

AS – Yes, staff wants everyone to have the same expectations.

BP – Limited resources and time is important to communicate.

SC – We can provide information about the preserves.

AS – We can give stock presentations about what Conservation Collier is.

SC – Asked if we have a waiver that the groups sign?

AS – Responded that we do not for the Greenway, but if we are going on trails at Pepper Ranch, yes, we do.

SC- That is something else to discuss.

AS – Good point and I may need to coordinate with Risk Management.

SC – In addition to suggestions for visits, you will want to communicate responsibilities for bringing water; i.e. what we provide and don't provide.

AS – Asked what kind of limits on an organization's ability to schedule us do you think we should have?

BP – Suggested limiting to how many times per month. Staff needs to figure out what time constraints are first.

AS – There is no time. That is the problem.

SC and BP - noted that staff could just provide the information and not conduct the tours. We supply the information to the schools and just ask for them to let us know if they visit so we can keep track of participation.

SC – Corkscrew Swamp did something for teachers to tell them what is available. Doing a teachers program would save time.

BP – Please create a syllabus of what we can do within a limited time schedule with a focus on providing educators with information that they can use themselves to do tours. Then go to schools and give the syllabus and see how we can coordinate with them.

AS – Asks whether to bring a draft syllabus to the main meeting.

BP – No, develop and we will meet again to review.

SC – Focus on what we can do with limited time. Provide education information so that teachers can do a self guide. Give a list of Master Naturalists who would be willing to go along. Recruit from classes. Train the Trainers.

AS - We are currently recruiting with the Main Florida Master Naturalist Program office in Gainesville and with a local Master Naturalist who is teaching classes.

SC – Master Naturalists have a requirement for a project. This could be a project.

BP – Maybe Master Naturalists could be involved in developing the syllabus or doing tours. Ask if a Master Naturalist could come to meeting – after you get a syllabus together.

AS - Noted that Conservation Collier is moving offices to the Golden Gate Community Park.

Tasks assigned: AS to develop a syllabus for what Conservation Collier can offer.

6 Set next meeting date: No specific date was set at this time, depends on when syllabus is done.

7 Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.