

Laffites Cove Nature Society (LCNS)

Board of Directors Meeting

May 11, 2013

The LCNS Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 8:10 a.m. by Bonnie White, President. A quorum was established by attendance of Bonnie White, Jim Walters, Ben Hock, Brenda Dawson and Mort Voller. Susan Gonzales, President of CKM Property Management was also in attendance.

The minutes of March 23, 2013 were reviewed. Upon motion duly made by Jim Walters and second by Ben Hock by unanimous vote the Board approved the minutes of March 23, 2013 as presented.

Ben Hock gave the financial report – Ben asked Susan to check the budget item changes from the last meeting.

Mort Voller discussed the trees and watering. Mort stated we have decided to install trees where the watering lines are and will add a new line where the lost large live oak were located. A Cedar Elm was also planted near the big oak. We will put additional trees in areas where sprinkler system were installed. Self-help was used on the labor to help reduce the costs. Minter Services did install the line. There is a downed tree near the BBQ pit but we may be able to save it. Another dead tree was lost and will be cut down.

The parking areas were discussed as to overload of visitors parking on the grass. Some no parking signs were put out. There are no sprinkler systems on this area. The buses during Featherfest were asked to go around on Jibstay and park. We had a Nature Preserve sign stolen this weekend.

Brenda discussed the PPOA website and stated it is really looking good. There is easy access to the Directory. We have 376 lots and we are only missing 50 email addresses. Susan stated the remaining 50 missing emails addresses will be researched.

Mort discussed a gate to allow access to the Preserves. Where the heavy equipment goes in currently is through lot 1 on Eckert Drive. An alternate access could be at the lift station on Binnacle. The area is being looked at to ascertain how much vegetation needs to be removed and obtaining permission. There will be a little labor cost. Posts and rope was proposed.

Canal Marsh Grass Permit – Ben Hock stated that we have other efforts to discuss where our goals should be aimed versus one that splits the neighborhood. He recommended closing the permit and move on. Further discussion occurred from Mort Voller and other Board members as to the merits of closing or continuing the permit. Upon motion duly made by Brenda Dawson seconded by Jim Walters, that the LCNS board close the Corp. of Engineers permit. Mort stated he was not so sure we should close the permit. The prototype was never tested. The LCNS has not encouraged nor discouraged anyone from doing anything. He recommended that as a group we should have a workable process to restore the marsh grass process.

Jim Walters stated the permit expires in a year, and concrete is not an option. Brenda Dawson has objection to the use of the concrete bag concept and feels that it has not been successful. Brenda is also in favor of closing the permit.

Mort stated if we go back the best basis would be photos of the prototype showing that a satisfactory method has not been met. The esthetics is a significant issue. How we go back is more important than if we go back.

Bonnie stated the permit is very specific as to the materials, we know that the community does not want those materials in the canals. Bonnie stated she wants a project that is consistent with what the needs are and want the members want. Would like to see the Corp that our goals were not met at this time we are asking that we close the permit.

Member comments: Doug Little suggested LCNS search whether closing the permit would cause problems for the future permitting; rather LCNS could revise the permit in the future. Taras Romanchuk, does not want cement, does feel LCNS has an obligation. The Corp. could come and state that the LCNS had an obligation to maintain and have not been done. At what point is LCNS going to react to a lot that has no grass. Bob Dove stated the concrete permit should be closed out. To close a permit is easy to open one is difficult. Bonnie stated the Corp wants Marsh grass, but will not get involved in neighborhood issues.

After discussion a call for a vote was made and the motion passed by unanimous vote. Bonnie White will draft the letter for Board review.

Discussion on Canal buoys was held. Susan Gonzales stated there were three companies who sold buoys and will send this information to the Board.

Jim Walters made a motion to adjourn seconded by Brenda Dawson.

The Board adjourned at 8:59 a.m.

Susan Gonzales

Recording Secretary