

LCNS Board Meeting Minutes
December 22, 2010

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 by Chris Cahill, President. Directors attending: Mort Voller, Jim Murphy, Chris Cahill, Gary Poltorak - Absent: Phil Glass, Scott Weaver, Grant Rice

Issues:

- Nature Preserves Report
- Canal Marsh Grass Project
- LCNS ARC / Deed Restrictions
- Wern Cemetery – Windlass Court

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes

Minutes to be reviewed by entire Board and approved at next meeting.

Financials:

2011 Budget reviewed and approved by Board e-mail vote – All in favor

Preserve Maintenance:

Mort Voller discussed the following issues:

- Three metal signs outlining the rules and guidelines for visitors to observe in the Preserves are being fabricated. Signs are 2' x 3' and cost \$450.00 each. **(I received an e-mail from Mort stating that the cost will be \$485.00 for all three)** Locations will be at Jibstay, Binnacle, and Eckert entrances. Smaller signs to identify plants, historical references, and animals that inhabit the Preserves were discussed. Costs have been included in the 2011 budget.
- A report detailing the projects undertaken and completed to maintain and improve the Preserves has been completed and will be sent by Mort to Susan for inclusion on our website.
- A memorial bench with a plaque to honor Paul Sage has been installed in Preserve E at the intersection of the east and west trails.

Canal Marsh Grass Project:

- Phil Glass will lead a project to build the shelves along the canal bulkheads that will support growth of marsh grass required by the ACOE permit. A pilot project will be started to find what will be the best way to contain a 15' shelf to stop the erosion and settling of it into the center of the canals. Discussion centered on the cost to use cement bags or corrugated panels to build a containment wall 15' from the bulkheads. Mort suggested that Bob Stokes of the Galveston Bay Foundation may be able to help. Phil has communicated by e-mail of his intent to contact Janet Bothello at the ACOE once we document the size of our pilot project and the scope of our entire needs.
- Chris wanted to know if there is "heartier" marsh grass that we could use that would have a better chance of survival. Mort mentioned that Cherie O'Brien has talked about a "Louisiana Grass" may be a better choice.

LCNS ARC / Deed Restrictions:

- Chris has asked Susan to create an LCNS ARC Application form to be used by anyone submitting plans which need to comply with the ACOE Permit standards. Once this is drafted, Hulse will review it.
- A plan to bring the community into compliance with the ACOE Permit restricting construction in or use of the flow easement and the setback requirements needs to be finalized. Chris noted that the community ignores letters from the LCNS requesting their compliance with the Permit, so he suggested that all future correspondence come from Hulse representing the LCNS. It was also

decided that a new survey of the canals needs to be done with Scott and Gary documenting the current state of violations.

- Gary suggested to begin with having Hulse notify the two homeowners who received approvals granted by the PPOA ARC in 2009 (that are in violation of the Permit) to submit new plans and applications to the LCNS for review. Jim stated he was in favor of allowing the two approvals to stand, and instead focus on violations that have not submitted applications and have not been reviewed by the PPOA ARC or the LCNS. Gary believes this will set a bad precedent, giving the 60+ current violations a path to being grandfathered even though they clearly violate the ACOE Permit.
- Chris said the facts and history of the PPOA ARC reviewing some applications and ignoring known violations needs to be reviewed by Hulse for recommendations to the Board before a letter is drafted.

Wern Cemetery:

Gary reviewed the project started by Mr. Kirk Clark, Historian, to identify the graves located in the LCNS Preserve X on Windlass Court.

- Wern Family owned land that was purchased by Mitchell Development for the Laffite's Cove community.
- The Wern Family cemetery was fenced and identified as a preserve under the authority and management of the LCNS.
- Mr. Clark documents areas of historical importance for inclusion in the historical register of Texas. He contacted Mr. Ernest Wern of Texas City for permission to investigate and document his Family's cemetery. Mr. Wern asked for Mr. Clark to identify his father's grave so he may visit and pay his respects.
- Mr. Clark contacted Susan at CKM for information and permission to begin his study. Susan contacted LCNS and Gary volunteered to assist Mr. Clark with his work. To date, 4 graves have been located, 2 have been identified. There is a potential of 12 graves on the site.
- Chris led a discussion about the ownership of the site. LCNS is the current "owner" with responsibilities granted to it under the deed restrictions. Mr. Clark has no authority or privilege to visit or work at the site without the permission of the LCNS and should not work there without direct supervision of an LCNS Representative. Gary volunteered to be the LCNS Representative since he lives 2 houses from the cemetery. Mort was concerned about the clearing of the lot because there are native plants and trees, especially live oaks, which need to be preserved and not destroyed. Gary stated that Mr. Clark has been respectful of this, but does not know what are important and what are "trash" species that can be removed. Gary asked Mort if he could flag or mark plants and trees that can be eliminated and Mort agreed to help Gary identify them.
- Costs for the cleanup were discussed. Mort stated that the LCNS had always had a "hands off" attitude for the Wern Cemetery out of respect for the Family, but now since a clean up is underway, what are the LCNS responsibilities? Chris said we should treat this as we would any other Preserve and if money is needed for a maintenance cleanup, then we should spend it within reason. Gary told the Board that he had spent about \$60 on fabricating a new gate on Windlass Court and that Mr. Clark had spent \$75 on hiring a landscaper to take away the branches and vines from cleaning around the graves. Gary stated that we should use Shaneyfelt as our cleanup crew to help with removing and disposing of debris.

Chris made a motion to reimburse Gary and Mr. Clark for their expenditures and to provide additional funds for the cleanup of the Wern Cemetery site.

Second by Jim – All in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15.