

**SAMSONS ISLAND WORKING BOARD**  
**MINUTES FROM MEETING HELD APRIL 19, 2016**

Eugene Matthews called the meeting of the Samsons Island Working Board to order at 6:03pm on Tuesday, April 19, 2016. Members in attendance were Eugene Matthews, Sandy Carnival, Brian Gilcher, Sam Lauricella, Greg Smith, Dan Hamblin, and David Vigliotti. Also present was Cassie Warthen Deputy Recreation Director and Dori Hughes Recreation staff.

Approval of Minutes: The Minutes from the February 16, 2016 meeting were reviewed. Brian Gilcher moved, seconded by Greg Smith to approve the minutes as presented. All ayes, motion passed.

Terrapin Turtle Presentation: Penny McDonald, Associate Professor of Biology at Eastern Florida State College has been issued a permit by Florida Fish and Wildlife to take a nesting and predation survey of the Florida East Coast Diamondback Terrapin on Samsons Island. Penny presented information about the DBT species and her plans to create turtle gardens for nesting research on the island. She offered to make Bycatch Reduction Devices (BRDs) available to the public at the Recreation Dept or the boat dock, for crab traps to prevent the accidental drowning of DBT turtles. Sightings of DBT in the area should be reported (including pictures and GPS coordinates if possible) to [terrapi@brevardzoo.org](mailto:terrapi@brevardzoo.org)

Volunteer and Public Works Activities: Dori reported that the marquee on the island had been repaired, mangrove trimming had been completed, and some work had been done clearing the path around the pond. There have been more pepper trees found that need to be removed. A couple of successful fieldtrips took place in March with a group of homeschoolers and several groups of preschoolers. Dori has been assisting Penny McDonald with her initial set up for the terrapin turtle habitat. Dori reported deterioration of some of the boards on the main East dock that need to be assessed and replaced if necessary. Cassie reported on the status and location of the wood chipper. Public works is coordinating with the recreation office to move the chipper off the island for repairs.

Management Plan Update: Dan reported on his meeting with the Recreation Dept. to review the Management Plan. There are minor changes that need updating in the plan which Dan will correct and bring back to the board for review. Sandy offered to reach out to her contacts about reviewing and updating the specimen list of plants and animals (Addendum 1).

Report on trail cams: The board discussed the purpose for adding a trail cam to the island, either to prevent vandalism or to catch candid shots of wildlife on the island. For now, the intention is to monitor traffic on and off the island by mounting a camera on or near the marquee. The board discussed adding signage to deter vandalism, such as "activity on the island is monitored by cameras, please be respectful of your Nature Park", and the possibility of adding dummy cameras on the island. Dori reported that the Barrier Island Center uses cameras to monitor their Sanctuary, and we could reach out to them to see how well that is working for them. Eugene offered to investigate types of trail cameras further and report back to the board.

Open House Critique: The board agreed February was a good time of year to hold the open house event. The number of people who RSVP'd early was greater than previous years, and there was a waitlist of people who would have come had there been more room available. The group discussed making the event run longer to accommodate people on a waitlist for next year. The volunteers at the event found the detailed maps and note cards for setup most helpful and encourage the same procedure for next year. Everyone thought having Paddling Paradise, with kayaks and paddleboards, was a nice addition to the event and hope they will return next year. The

board would like to set up a table promoting the Adopt A Park program next year, where information can be distributed and stickers and t-shirts sold. It was suggested to approach Keep Brevard Beautiful as a partner/sponsor for the event next year.

A proof of the Samsons Island Adopt A Park sticker was presented, the board asked Cassie to look into a different design for the sticker, and get quotes from local companies to design a new logo.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35pm. The next meeting is scheduled for May 17, 2016 at 6pm.