



## APPROVED MINUTES

**Eagle Sanctuary Steering Committee  
February 25, 2010 - 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.  
City of Pembroke Pines City Hall, 3rd Floor Conference Room  
10100 Pines Boulevard  
Pembroke Pines, FL 33026**

Attendees:

I. Welcome - *Doug Young, Chair*, returned yesterday from his second trip to Haiti since our last meeting, and had to postpone several planned contacts relative to the Eagle Nest Cam project.

II. Roll Call and Introductions

Attendees: Doug Young, Chair, Kelly Smith, Trisha Norton, Al Griffin, Ken Schneider (recorder), Grant Campbell, Diana Guidry, Brian Mealey,.

Absent: Barry Heimlich, Victor Suarez, City of Pembroke Pines Representative: Sharon Williams, South Florida Water Management District Lead Intergovernmental Representative: Carole Morris

III. Minutes of January 28, 2010 meeting were **APPROVED** with correction of minor typographical errors.

IV. Business Issues

1. Eagle Nest Cam – Contacts with FWC re camera placement – Doug has not had clear feedback from his initial contact with FWC. Brian suggested that we might consider mounting the camera on a nearby Australian Pine as an alternative to erecting a pole or tower. As an invasive exotic, there should not be an objection to pruning away any branches that might obstruct the camera's view. The exact height of the nest is unknown, but Ken thought it may be 50-55 feet, and we may need to settle for a vantage point that is below the nest. Grant stated that a tethered tower could be raised to any height. The group expressed concerns about the risk that an eagle may collide with a guy wire, and questioned whether FWC would allow such a structure. Could such a danger be mitigated by placing banners or curlicues on the wires? Brian suggested that we should re-visit the possibility of placing the camera on the FPL pole, and Trisha concurred.

**a) Doug will follow up immediately to obtain FWC agency position as to whether camera may be placed in the nest tree.**

**b) Doug will include issues about guy wires in his discussion with FWC officials, and provide the Committee with e-mail feedback.**

**c) Brian and Trisha will independently seek clarification of FPL position on use of power pole for camera placement.**

2. Eagle Nest Cam – Doug reported that contacts with possible sponsors were still preliminary.

**Doug will initiate meetings ASAP with policy level staff of NBC-6, Comcast and other possible sponsors.**



3. Eagle Nest Cam – Project Management / Timeline- Ken reported that the project was now 2-3 months behind schedule. Brian emphasized the critical importance of obtaining early Florida FWC and US F&WS understanding of the project, and the need to meet the 90-day FWC permit application deadline. He believed that we should apply for the permit earlier than April 1 as stated in the Timeline, and that the process should begin immediately. FWC may require all construction to be completed a month or more before the “official” breeding season, which begins on October 1. Members concurred that the project must first be clearly described as to equipment, camera placement, approval of the City, and nature of support of sponsors, before application for a permit. Brian suggested that the Mayor should be asked to contact appropriate FWC leadership to emphasize the City’s support for the Nest Cam project.

**a) Doug will initiate formal contact and consultation with FWC as to procedures and timing for the permit, as soon as possible, and will seek guidance from F&WS officials.**

**b) Doug will contact Mayor Ortis to discuss possible actions by the City in support of the FWC permit, including contact with FWC leadership.**

**c) Brian will also make contact with F&WS to obtain specific permitting information.**

4. Eagle Naming Poll procedure -- Kelly said that the Mayor’s announcement of another eaglet naming poll was greeted with enthusiasm by her students. Her five Science classes will each select one set of three names to be entered as “candidates” in a nationwide poll that Ken will host on his Web site. The names must be gender-neutral and preferably should convey an appreciation of Florida’s history and natural attractions. American Indian themes would be especially relevant. Suggestions from others will be accepted, but selection will be the responsibility of the students. Diana suggested that individual sponsors or donors might be honored by having an eagle named after them. Since the students were already engaged in the naming process, this may be possible in future years.

**a) Ken will solicit suggestions in an e-mail to the Eagle Watchers.**

**b) Grant will seek assistance of a Tribal contact for eagle name suggestions.**

5. Roadside Barriers Inquiry (Information) – Ken reported that David Borgadus of FDOT and two of his staff had visited the nest site a couple of weeks ago when he and Trisha happened to be there. They discussed concerns about pedestrians already using the south side of Pines to view the eagle nest, despite the signs. Since FDOT lacked a supply of soft barriers such as water barrels, Ken asked whether FDOT could approve their use if a means might be found to purchase or acquire them. David said that FDOT “would consider” such a request, provided it was approved by City traffic engineers. Last week, Ken provided this information to Sharon Williams, who advised City Engineer Joe McLaughlin. The latter replied that there were no City funds for this purpose and that FDOT has jurisdiction over the right-of-way. When Mayor Ortis was visiting the nest last week, Ken mentioned this. He reiterated Joe’s position, but wondered whether it would be possible to find someone who could donate a few water barrels and orange plastic fencing, as this is how the City obtained the temporary chain link fence. No Steering Committee members were aware of any entity that might have this equipment to loan or donate to the City.

**Committee members are asked to be alert for any opportunity to obtain donations of soft barrier equipment and advise Doug.**

6. SFWMD C-11 project on-site meeting and status – deferred in the absence of Carole



7. Action Items for next meeting (**in bold print above**)

VI. Other Business - During the Committee's discussion of placement of the Nest Cam, it was suggested that if the camera is mounted on a tower or pole, this could also serve as a site for an artificial nest platform in the event that the nest tree is felled by hurricane winds. Australian Pines have brittle wood and shallow root systems and are notoriously susceptible to being broken or blown over by high winds. Ken asked if it might be feasible to find other younger Australian Pines near the present nest tree that could serve as alternative nesting sites. Native true pines often have open centers, while trees of this exotic species usually have only one central leader limb, which does not create an open crotch suitable for nest placement. Could younger trees be altered by pruning off the leader limb about 40 feet up, thus encouraging side limbs to create a 3 or 4-pronged scaffold of stronger branches that would support a nest? This would be much cheaper than solutions involving artificial poles and towers. Brian was not aware of this ever having been done, and he hypothesized that perhaps an open frame could be constructed in the fork to provide more support for an alternate nest, and encourage the scaffold limbs to curve up around the frame. Members believed that this would be an interesting subject for research.

VII. Next Scheduled Eagle Sanctuary Committee Meeting (Sharon will confirm room reservation):

**Date: March 25, 2010**

**Time: 4:00 PM**

**Location: City of Pembroke Pines City Hall, Meeting**

**Room: TBD**

VII. Meeting Adjourned at 5:23 PM