

**Myakka River Management Coordinating Council  
SWFWMD Sarasota Service Office  
6750 Fruitville Road  
Sarasota, FL 34240  
December 2, 2016  
9:30 A. M. – 12:37 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

The meeting began at 9:30 A. M. with Jono Miller presiding. This meeting was advertised in the Herald Tribune on Friday, November 18, 2016.

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Jono Miller – Sierra Club  
Mike Chouinard – Homeowner  
Tara Poulton – SWFWMD  
Gillian Carney – City of Venice  
Jon Meyer – FDEP/FPS  
Elizabeth Wong – North Port  
Heather Young – TBRPC  
Greg Blanchard – Manatee County  
Lou Kovach – Homeowner  
Maran Hilgendorf - CHNEP

Corky Pezzati – SC LWV  
Marlene Guffey - Homeowner  
Paul Thomas - FWC  
Howard Berna - Sarasota County  
Allain Hale – ECOSWF  
Barbara Hines – ManaSota-88  
Steven Schaefer – Friends of MRSP  
Tim Walker – SWFRPC  
Bill Byle – Charlotte County

**INTERESTED PARTIES**

Chris Oliver – FDEP/FPS  
Nadine Hallenbeck – FDEP/FPS  
Bob Clark – Venice Audubon  
Dee Allen – Mosaic  
Chris Becker – FDEP/FPS  
Nicole Rissler – Sarasota County

Lee Amos - CFGC  
Juliette Jones – Friends of WMS  
Debbie McDowell – North Port  
Shawn Yeager – Sarasota County  
Jon Robinson – Sarasota County  
Diana Donaghy – Sarasota County

- **Call to Order and Roll Call was made.**
- **Public Comments:**

Bob Clark noted he was member of the Venice Area Audubon Society but was speaking today as a citizen not the organization. He continued by stating that he is sympathetic to rowing but wanted to address this agenda item. He added that Council should look at any proposal in view that this not any river but a Wild and Scenic designated river. He discussed the recent expansion of the Myakka Critical Wildlife Area (CWA) and expressed concern about the proposed increase in traffic and noise that will occur during the critical breeding season. He stated that he prefers no rowing training activities but if it is allowed that the Council should consider restrictions on the size of boats and noise levels which should be monitored by a third-party expert to keep an eye on the rookery during rowing activity.

Lee Amos commented that he has experience with the Sarasota Crew rowing program at Bay Preserve in Osprey and, while the program works, it is not without some conflicts. Lee stated that the Council may want to consider some potential issues on the Myakka River that may be problematic for these rowing activities. He noted the southern portion is quite windy, compared with the Inter-Coastal Waterway, and that several oyster bars could damage equipment and put the rowers at risk. Also, he was concerned about the use of amplification noting the noise levels could disturb the rookery and neighbors. Finally, he noted some inherent conflict between the wake zones and the chase boats. The rowers will want to go fast and the chase boats will create wakes to keep up with the shells.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- **Approval of the Meeting Minutes from April 8, 2016 Council Meeting.**  
Allain Hale moved adoption of the Minutes. Lou Kovach seconded. The Minutes were adopted.
- **Approval of the Meeting Minutes from September 16, 2016 Council Meeting.**  
Allain Hale moved adoption of the Minutes. Paul Thomas seconded. There were 3 typos in the Minutes. The Minutes were adopted with these modifications.

Chris Oliver provided an update on the status of the nominated members. The applications remain under review in Tallahassee. Staff there reviewed the statute, which states that the DEP Secretary must confirm recommendations from the Council for new membership. As it stands right now, the legal department is reviewing the issue to determine whether the FPS Director or DEP Secretary will be the final step in considering new appointments to the Council.

Marlene Guffey advised the Council to be careful in who is allowed as new members and to make sure that the potential members are aware of the different issues on the river and that they will ensure the future protection of the river.

Chris added that this Council is unique in that the members are permanent and, while the statute requires certain agencies and municipalities have members, this Council may select other members at its discretion. This allows for many different opinions to be heard and for decisions to come from a general consensus, which was the intention of the statute.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

##### **Updates:**

##### **Howard Berna-Sarasota County Update:**

Sarasota County is working on a couple of Myakka River Protection Zone (MRPZ) violations, which include some encroachments on the river.

Lou Kovach asked what kinds of encroachments.

Howard replied that there was some cutting and clearing into the wetland buffer on the backside of some properties. Some logs and vegetation were dumped in this area. A new drainage ditch

was cut leading out to the river in another area. They are working with both homeowners to correct these.

Jono asked about the status of the Diocese of Venice and their construction.

Howard replied that they were renegotiating the easement they had with a neighbor but that has fallen through. They are now looking to get outside of the easement and move their structure.

Jono asked for clarification on the clearing up near Snook Haven Park to make sure that not too much native vegetation was getting damaged in the process.

Howard replied in the (MRPZ) ordinance, if the trimming was a practice that was ongoing since 2003 or before, then that practice could continue. It could just be the fresh cut that is visible but this could always be verified with park staff.

Marlene commended the county on the clean-up of Snook Haven and acknowledged that it was there before the river was given the Wild & Scenic designation, so they may have to take out some native vegetation to make it look presentable.

Jono stated that the county owns a lot of property along the river, and that he took out at the Border Road Canoe Launch where a lot pruning occurred in the river area. He would advise the county to be clear on their standards and practices for clearing areas adjacent to the river.

#### **Bill Byle-Charlotte County Community Development Update:**

Bill noted that the Myakka River in Charlotte County is not part of the Wild & Scenic program. Some homeowners along the river objected to becoming part of the Wild & Scenic program because they are worried that they will be restricted in what they can do along the river.

New construction is on the rise in the county. This may cause an increase in boat traffic due to residents taking the canals to connect to the river. The Council may need to consider this in order make sure this does not negatively impact the river. There is a critical nursery habitat in this area where 90% of the species that live in Charlotte Harbor and the Gulf of Mexico grow up.

Jono asked if the number of boats going in and out of the locks are kept track of.

Bill was not sure but could find out.

#### **Elizabeth Wong-City of North Port Update:**

The City's Comprehensive plan was recently updated to include provisions for sea level rise and climate change as part of development projects. The Land Development Code is also being revised and the public is encouraged to voice their opinions at an upcoming public meeting in January. More information on the meeting can be found on their website.

There is a new application, called "North RePort" located on their website that will help residents report any issues, they also have a phone application to report issues as well.

### **Gillian Carney-City of Venice Update:**

The Venice Golf and River Club (VGRC), which has storm water drainage into the river, will have a total of 1,377 units, 38 of which are currently under construction which are estimated to be completed in 2017. The Woods has been rezoned but not submitted for preliminary plan review.

Gillian noted some City programs including: their street sweeping program which runs four times a week; and that the city adopted the Sarasota County fertilizer ordinance. Various storm water structural projects have been completed and the Capri Isles Police Station ditch improvement is next on the list. They now have a full-time storm water crew so they no longer have to go to public works or utilities, they can send the dedicated crew out instead.

There is a group that is proposing an ADA attachment to the Myakka Park kayak launch. Gillian did not have any other information. At a recent City of Venice Council meeting, a motion was made to approve the removal of a council liaison from the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program.

Lou asked if this was a financial decision.

Gillian responded that it was partly financial and that the Council members were not seeing a return on their investment in the program. The withdrawal of the liaison is immediate but the withdrawal of the membership would not be effective until the beginning of 2017.

### **Maran Hilgendorf-Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program (CHNEP) Update:**

Jennifer Hecker has been named the new director. She was with the Conservancy of Southwest Florida and started at CHNEP on November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016. The CHNEP is in the process of updating their management plan. For the last four years, they have published a quarterly magazine called Harbor Happenings and in conjunction with this, they produce a poster focusing on different environmental areas. The CHNEP offers many training events including two upcoming trainings with the NOAA Office of Coastal Management. One on planning effective programs and the other on meaningful project evaluation. The next summit is March 28<sup>th</sup> through the 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at the Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center. The agenda has been drafted and the event is free to attend. You can attend only the portions you are interested in and you can attend on Web X online. They will also use PowerPoint presentations to create videos that can be watched later. They currently have 200 talks on their YouTube channel of previous presentations.

### **Paul Thomas-Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission Update:**

The Myakka River CWA was established in 1987. DEP does a monthly bird survey and has done so since 1993. The commissioners met in November 2016 and approved the widened buffer zone around the CWA. The new protection area is 75 feet on the North, West and South sides and 50 feet on the East side. The protected season is January 1 through August 31, during which most of the nesting season occurs.

Chris asked if there was a publicly available document regarding the expansion of the CWA zone.

Paul replied that he could provide Chris with something to put on the council website.

Chris added that the new postings will require a permit from the FWC Office of Waterways Management which could take some time to get.

Paul concluded that law enforcement cannot enforce the new protection zone until the postings have been put in place.

**Tara Poulton-SWFWMD Update:**

The District is proposing a potential aquifer replenishment project on Flatford Swamp. This will consist of a gravity injection well which will discharge naturally treated surface water into the aquifer at a depth greater than 1,000 feet. If the test proves feasible, two things could be accomplished: one is to form a barrier to slow salt water intrusion into the aquifer; and the second is to help restore natural vegetation patterns in the swamp. There will be one test well operating one to two years, and the project will only move forward if it is determined to be safe for the water resources. Based on 17 years of water quality records, they anticipate the recharge water to be better quality than the water currently in the aquifer. They are notifying all the affected stakeholders and have several public meetings coming up. A public meeting will be held at the SWFWMD office on January 9, 2017 from 3:30 to 5:30. The Agriculture and Green Advisory Committee has already voted unanimously to move forward with the project. The Governing Board will have a meeting on December 13, 2016 at 9:00 am in Tampa to review the project. All the major water use permittees in the area, the 73 residential wells, Manatee County and all associations and industries are being notified of the project as well.

Jono asked where the injected water will come from.

Chris stated he thinks it might they might be referring the sheet flow coming off agricultural areas that gather in the tributaries and then in Flatford Swamp.

Jono asked if there were any other options considered.

Tara advised that there were many options but this one was thought to be the best.

Jono suggested that someone directly involved in the project come to the next council meeting to explain it to the members and whether they expect to be able to detect any change in the potential for vegetation to reestablish itself in a one or two-year project.

Tara advised that would be possible.

Allain asked why Warm Mineral Springs (WMS) failed to make the Minimum Flows and Levels (MFL) priority list.

Tara replied that she would be happy to forward that information to the Council.

Lou asked about the previous meeting regarding WMS that was held in Tampa.

Jono replied that he and Allain Hale attended that meeting via telephone. He explained that the District has a MFL program that attempts to figure out how much water can be taken before it creates a problem for a body of water. The flow in WMS has been declining over the years and, being that it is a smaller spring, a slight drop is noticeable. On the call, it was mentioned to consider adding WMS to the list. Jono added that it would be terrible to lose this resource for North Port because people's ability to enjoy it would be greatly diminished.

Tara also mentioned that the cooperative funding initiative (CFI) was underway. Applications were submitted in October and DEP came in with a project to remove the by-culverts at the Upper Myakka Lake (UML).

**Greg Blanchard-Manatee County Update:**

There will be a meeting after the first of the year on mining in the Upper Basin.

**Chris Oliver-Myakka Wild & Scenic River (MWSR) Update:**

The UML bypass blew out in the rain event in May 2016. This closed the popular platform that sits on top of the culverts to visitors. Staff are working with SWFWMD to get funding through CFI to restore this area. The MWSR Management Plan states we need to look at all manmade structures along the Wild & Scenic River and explore the feasibility of modification or removal to restore a more natural hydrologic condition. The assumption is if we move closer to the original condition then certain types of wildlife benefits will improve. If this area along the marsh is allowed to dry out, then fire and other management activities can be brought in to remove some of the non-native vegetation and there will be a greater potential for restoration. This is a complex issue and a feasibility study should be done.

The CR-780 Bridge is being rebuild and it should be completed by February 2017.

Mike Choinard asked if any progress has been made on the removal of Down's Dam.

Chris replied that they are working with the Division of State Lands to determine ownership of the submerged lands and the upland interface associated with the physical structure of the dam. The next step would be to do a feasibility study as required by the management plan. It is more of a navigation hazard because the entire east side is already washed out making the structure mostly non-functioning.

Diana Donaghy stated that without the dam there would be less restriction for manatees to come and go.

Jono brought up that increasing accessibility for manatees also increases access for poachers and people entering the wilderness area of MRSP from the south.

Chris mentioned that the river conditions are currently very low which is very good for survey data and the wildlife. At the last survey, there were over 1,000 wading shorebirds, 300 alligators and 7 different water snakes observed. It can be inconvenient for recreational use but some species prefer a lower water level. The Big Flats Restoration Area received funds from FWC through their The Aquatic Habitat Restoration/Enhancement Subsection (AHRE) program. Two

blocks have been aerially treated for invasive grasses, each at 120 acres and so far, the results have been good. Hopefully, more work can be done and improve the area even more.

**Break 11:05 -11:15**

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### **Shawn Yeager-Sarasota County Parks SBJL Pilot Rowing Program:**

The intent of the pilot program at Senator Bob Johnson's Landing (SBJL) is to determine the viability of utilizing Senator Bob Johnson's Landing as a training site for rowing and collect data that can be analyzed in determining future use of the MWSR for rowing activities. This pilot rowing program (PRP) is being implemented for six months as a test of the SBJL site and the Myakka River for rowing activities. There will be monthly progress reports generated by the Suncoast Aquatic Nature Center Associates, Inc. (SANCA) that will come from initial feedback from user groups; a full report will be developed within 90 days following the completion of the PRP. The program is proposed to start January 1, 2017 but a permit is still needed. This request will be submitted to the DEP Regulatory Office.

Shawn stressed that while they are trying to catch and address all concerns, not all of them will be able to be addressed prior to the start of PRP. But, that is the function of PRP to catch any issues that may have been unanticipated.

Shawn continued to outline the PRP. He noted the time frame of rowing practice will be from 6:00 am to Civil Twilight and the carrying capacity will be limited to 80 overall participants per day. Shawn indicated anyone on the water in a boat is a participant.

Site improvement construction will be occurring simultaneously, so a notice of construction to participants will include current status and a rough timetable for phases of work to be completed. Also to be included are a map of constructions zones off limits to visitors. Wakeless boats supplied by SANCA are requested to be used for all water activities throughout this pilot program. Voice amplification and/or the use of a megaphone shall not exceed the maximum permissible sound levels defined by the Sarasota County Code of Ordinances Chapter 54, Article VI-Noise; and using, as a model, the City of Venice Code of Ordinances Chapter 34, Article II. Noise Control. Shawn noted prior concerns about the potential impacts from amplification and discussed options of limiting these impacts that including using decibel meters to conduct test prior to activities to establish sound level maximums and distance buffers from areas of concern.

Marlene asked who proposed this and why is Sarasota County considering this on the Wild and Scenic river.

Nicole Rissler (Deputy Director for Sarasota County Parks & Recreation Natural Resources) replied that the County Commission charged SANCA to look at opportunities around Sarasota County, especially within the south county, for additional rowing opportunities. The County Commission gave SANCA and Parks & Recreation the charge of looking at different places that could host training and recreational rowing. Senator Bob Johnson's Landing is one that came back as a location where rowing could occur. A few boats were brought down and tested out and

it was found feasible on a preliminary basis. This information was brought back to the County Commission who then came back and requested that a pilot program be implemented. Much research has been done and they are aware that just allowing rowers to use the river is not going to work, a program must be put in place. This does not mean that every day, for six months, there will be 80 additional people on the river.

Nicole continued that they realize there are concerns and they want to do what is best for everyone in this situation. They do not want to damage the river or any of the resources on it so this is where the pilot program testing comes in. They need the data to be able to determine if this program will work or not.

Shawn continued that Sarasota County staff reserves the right to close this facility should conditions become unsafe for any reason. This may include flooding, storm events, and/or significant facility damage. Post-training incident reports will be reviewed by SANCA, FDEP representatives, and County staff on a weekly basis. A summary of these will be provided at the conclusion of the pilot program. Incident reports will need to be provided to County staff immediately following an incident. Incidents may involve visitor/user injuries, vessel collisions, wildlife collisions, venturing into mapped critical wildlife areas. Representatives from SANCA, FDEP, MRMCC, and Sarasota County will review the results and provide a recommendation to continue or discontinue the program. A minimum of six SANCA sanctioned occurrences of training are recommended to evaluate the site for rowing. If there are less than six it means there is not much interest in using the site for rowing.

The following factors may lead to discontinuation of the PRP. First, unacceptable noise levels based on the City of Venice Code of Ordinances. Secondly, disturbance of the Rookery or nesting failure could possibly discontinue the program. (A link to The City of Venice Code of Ordinances was provided.) Conflicts with residents and other recreational users of the MWSR will be monitored under the program. Failure to report incidents or provide weekly user reports would be basis for discontinuing the program.

Shawn brought up Paul's earlier concern regarding accessibility. The teams in the program will be told of the limitations prior to them trying to row on the river. It will be up to them to decide if they would like to try to row there or not.

Chris mentioned the private boat ramp for Myakka River Trails is in that area and letting them know that this pilot program will be taking place and to travel through this area with caution.

Shawn continued noting that staff were aware of the conditions of the river which can be unpredictable and change frequently, a safety run will be required prior to use to be provided to the teams and to keep an update of any potential obstacles in the river, blind curves or potential use issues that were not anticipated.

Rob Wright asked where the training routes will be and where the testing routes were as well.

Nicole replied that she's unsure of where the testing routes took place but that SANCA and Sarasota Crew were involved in the testing.



Chris mentioned that Bob Whitford (of SANCA) told him that there would be a route to the county line and potentially a north route as well.

Nicole replied that maybe it was discussed early on but there were no current plans for a north route.

Chris requested that if there was only one route, it would be helpful to have it in the plan.

Shawn continued that another concern was any boats traveling side by side or racing, which would not be allowed.

Marlene asked about other boats on the river and the impact the rowers could have on them.

Shawn responded that is the purpose of the safety runs before any rowers go out on the river.

Marlene responded that if another user is in that area they would be told to get out of the way.

Shawn replied that the rowers would be the ones notified of the other users and advised not to go out on the water at that time.

Lou asked if there was a lack of capacity at Nathan Benderson Park (NBP). A discussion of NBP continued.

Jono added that if there is a competitive event at NBP and the teams from up north have taken a few days to get here they might not have the space at NBP but there might be room at Fort Hammer or the bay. The commission is also wondering if this could work (on the MWSR) as an additional space for rowing.

Paul asked how many rowing competitions take place at NBP in a year.

Nicole responded that last year there were about 20 rowing competitions.

Paul asked how many teams are in each competition.

Nicole replied that it depends on the event. In the Florida Scholastic Championship, there are about 5,000 people and 1,600 athletes participating.

Elizabeth Wong noted that the document states if there is a 10% decline in nesting occurrences the program could be discontinued. She asked if the activities were going to happen in the nesting season. She asked if there is baseline data to determine if this is a natural variation or because of the rowing.

Bob Clark added that unfortunately, the PRP is proposed during the nesting times.

Chris described the different stages of nesting and the birds being more sensitive to disturbances at different times during the nesting process. Since the rookery is home to a diverse number of species, the nesting season is quite long because different species nest at different times. The beginning and ending of the nesting period are when the birds are the most sensitive.

Jono expanded on Elizabeth's question and added that if someone flies a drone over the rookery that could also contribute to a decline in nesting and it might not be obvious that the pilot program had nothing to do with it. He suggested to take nesting failure out of the rules and replace it with flushing. Any change to the bird's behavior should be a factor in whether the pilot program continues or not.

Elizabeth asked if the noise level was being measured for the residents or the birds, where it is being measured and has a base line level already been established.

Shawn replied that a base line has not been established yet. A maximum level has not been established with SANCA yet. The noise level restriction would be for the natural resources as well as the other users.

Jono suggested that while SANCA is measuring the level with their high-end system, have a few other people with phone apps measuring as well to see if the apps are as accurate as the high-end system. That way the special equipment does not always have to be brought down as the only way to test the noise level.

Marlene asked why the North Port ordinance was not being used.

Shawn responded that the address is listed as Venice so they use the Venice noise ordinance.

Nicole added that both sound ordinances could be evaluated and the stricter one could be used.

Tim Walker asked how these rules and regulations will be distributed to the crews, the coaches or governing bodies.

Shawn replied that there are welcome kits that will be distributed to all teams which will include this information, as well as updated and current conditions on the river prior to the teams going out.

Allain voiced his concerns on the growth of the program and the future effects on the river as that happens. He mentioned that there are other, more appropriate training facilities that could be used instead. He is concerned that the river is going to be too crowded for homeowners, like himself, to enjoy the river as they do now.

Nicole replied that SANCA works with both Manatee and Sarasota Counties and they are trying to get other programs into Manatee County as well. Sarasota County Commissioners are interested in having people enjoy Sarasota County.

Allain mentioned that there is a rowing facility down at Indian Mound Park in Englewood. He continued to say that everyone is thinking that it is an incompatible use of with the Wild & Scenic River.

Nicole acknowledge that there are concerns and reiterated that it is her job to review whether this is a viable or not viable opportunity. That is the job of the pilot study. It may come back as a good option or it may come back as a bad option or it may come back as a good option with some revisions. Her job is to provide data from the pilot study to the County Commissioners who will then make the final determination.

Heather Young asked if the clock is stopped on the six-month study if a natural disaster, such as a flood, makes the facility unusable.

Shawn replied that data would be in the final report and contribute to the determination of the acceptance of the program so that would not stop the clock on the six-month period.

Nicole added that the only time the pilot study would be extended was if there was not enough data to decide.

Steve Schaefer asked if the need for additional rowing facilities has been studied.

Nicole replied that it has been and she could provide that information.

Jono asked if the park will be open to the public in addition to rowing teams and will the dock be available for public use.

Steve asked that if the money has already been spent, must the dock be used.

Jono replied that the dock is moveable.

Nicole advised that the park will not be open to the public until phase one of the construction is completed, which is starting in late spring.

Jono added that if the park is just restricted to the rowing teams the public might not be happy about that.

Rob asked if the park will be open on both weekdays and weekends.

Nicole believes that it will be open during both times.

Rob asked if the 80 person limit could be divided up between a few boats or many boats.

Nicole replied it would be unlikely but it is possible.

Rob asked if there was a reason that electric boats were not required since a motorized boat would be noisier.

Nicole replied that the investment would be significant to require electric boats. SANCA is going to be the one providing the chase boats, not the teams.

Rob commented that the trailers are large and would take space away from other users.

Nicole replied that during the PRP, the park is only open to the rowers.

Rob then asked if the PRP goes forward past the pilot study period, and is approved then boats will then be taking space away from the public.

Nicole replied that if the program goes forward, there would be a designated trailer storage area in the park. They are waiting to see if the program is going to go forward before making the investment of this storage area.

Rob asked who makes the final determination of whether the program goes forward.

Nicole replied a report will be created and shared with the MRMCC, the Park Advisory Committee and, ultimately, the County Commission would make the final determination.

Jono commented that commissioners that represent Sarasota County and North Port would like to bring some more rowing programs into the southern portion of the county, since NBP is in the northern portion, as well as revenue. Myakka River is Sarasota County's only river, compared to Manatee County which has many rivers and therefore, more opportunities for rowing areas. The idea behind the PRP is that it is a better idea to have a pilot study than to just go ahead and do something like this on the Myakka River.

Barbara Hines commented that without base line studies how can anyone know the effect this rowing is going to have on the river. She added that having the pilot study before a world rowing championship seems like bad timing.

Nicole asked the council if the amount of people allowed on the river was causing the anxiety.

Barbara stated that she feels the study is not being conducted scientifically.

Nicole replied that they will look at the base line for noise before the program starts. They also need to bring a team that would be typical of training to have accurate information to evaluate.

Jono asked who the stakeholders were in this process. Could the county contact all the people with waterfront property along the river and advise them of the pilot program and let them know to provide feedback and who to contact.

Elizabeth suggested using a headset system could be used in the boats instead of a megaphone for the coxswain to communicate with the rowers.

Allain brought up a motion for discussion.

**Motion**

The Myakka River Management Coordinating Council rejects the proposal for an organized rowing training facility on the Myakka River.

**Allain made the motion and Marlene seconded.**

Discussion on the motion language and parties to receive the motion continued.

**Motion (revised)**

The Myakka River Management Coordinating Council rejects the proposed organized rowing training activity on the Myakka River, that is incompatible and inconsistent with the Myakka Wild & Scenic River Management Plan.

**Allain read in the revised motion and Marlene seconded. The motion passed nine to two with seven members abstaining.**

Chris requested Council members send him emails with suggested dates and topics for the next meeting. He noted that this first meeting of the year is the business meeting when officers are elected and any new members nominated.

**Paul moved to adjourn the meeting. Steve Schaefer seconded. The Meeting was adjourned at 12:37 p.m.**