**Duval County Soil and Water Conservation District**

**SPECIAL MEETING**

**Monday, January 11th, 2021 4:00 p.m.**

**Zoom Teleconference**

**Supervisors in Attendance**: Jennifer Casey (Chair), James Cook (Vice Chair) Allen Moore (Treasurer), John Barnes (Secretary), Ashantae Green (Historian)

**Affiliate Members**: Joshua Rosenberg (NativeJax)

**Partners**: Lauren Christiansen (COJ), Gayandrail Henderson (COJ)

**General Public:** Shanell Davis-Bryant (Groundwork Jacksonville), Javon Williams (Jacksonville Youth Works)

**Meeting Called to Order:** 4:00 pm

1. Welcome and Introductions– Jennifer Casey
2. Overview of proposed Regeneration Park and [NACD Urban Agriculture Conservation Grant Initiative](https://www.nacdnet.org/about-nacd/what-we-do/urban-and-community/) (deadline for proposal Feb 15) – Jennifer Casey
3. Review of proposed design – Joshua Rosenberg
4. Comments from participants
	1. **Shanell Davis-Bryant** – Design is fine. Concerned about phasing of the project and timeline. Who is building what? Who is engaging the community in this design? Getting the community involved. Logistics- No water access, need to figure out irrigation system. Need to incorporate solar power as there is no JEA Access. Soil is not great out there. Need to include costs for lights, hardware, shed etc. This is not a one-year project. Need to include additional funding to secure items. Maybe do phases of funding request. Each time you apply for a grant there is a tangible item for a photo opp. A full year of concerted volunteer effort. Regarding security issues, allowing the community to have a say, work on the installation and take ownership of the project will result in it being better taken care of. Opportunity to partner on Earth Day event.
	2. **Joshua Rosenberg**- Phase 1 wood chips Phase 2- Garden area, Josh has a contact with a 3D concrete printer. Final phase can be planting of all the trees. Josh suggested natural rainwater option. We want to have it a nice clean look so people can identify with it in a nice clean way. Going to find out what the price would be.
	3. **Jennifer Casey**- Can green team partner with the benches? (Yes) What obstacles do you see from the city perspective? Is the city a hard no on raised beds too? If the bad soil is only 1 foot down could we dig it up?
	4. **Lauren Christiansen** *–* Phases will certainly help. Sheds interfering with visibility could be an issue. We can’t have edible plants. Tentative support pending grant approval. Need solar lights and rainwater catchment for irrigation. Soil remediation might take 5 years. Need educational signage explaining “Eat at your own risk” or similar message.
	5. **Gayandrail Henderson** *–* The city is a no right now on edible plants and beds.
5. **Next Steps**

**ADA requirements/Solar Panel Options/ Letter of Support**

* 1. **Allen Moore** – Offers to request letter of support from Duval County Extension
	2. **Jennifer Casey** – Offers to request letter of support from Sierra Club Northeast FL Group
	3. **Ashantae Green** – Offers to request letter of support from FL Native Plant Society
	4. **Joshua Rosenberg** – Work on grant proposal in communication with COJ and GWJ
	5. **Javon Williams and Ashantae Green** – Will work on the community engagement piece including incentives
	6. **Shanell Davis-Bryant** – Will review our draft grant proposal and offer recommended revisions
	7. **Lauren Christiansen** – Will look into details regarding asphalt cap, soil data and storm drain details

Americorp Volunteer Engagement Coordinator needed.

**NEXT MEETING** – February 2nd at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom teleconference

Meeting Adjourned