

MINUTES REPORT
EAGLE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ETAC)
Tuesday, December 14, 2021

Committee Members Present:

Ed Elms
Kyle Philpot
Betsie Hiatt, Vice-Chair
Mike Myers

Excused / Absent:

Laura Greeno, Chair

Lee County Government Staff Present:

Becky Sweigert, DCD Planning
Nic DeFilippo, DCD Planning
Amanda Swindle, CAO

Outside Consultants/Members of the Public Present:

Jacob Taminosian

CALL TO ORDER:

Ms. Betsie Hiatt called the meeting to order at 3:08 pm in the first floor conference room of the Public Works/Community Development Building, 1500 Monroe Street, Ft. Myers, Florida and introductions were made. Ms. Sweigert acknowledged Mr. Jacob Taminosian. She said that he had submitted his application for appointment to the committee to fill the vacancy left by Mr. Myers' pending retirement. She will send the application to County Admin and it will be forwarded to the Board for appointment, hopefully at the January board meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 12, 2021

Ms. Hiatt called for a review of the October minutes. There were no comments or changes.

Mr. Elms made a motion to approve the October minutes as written. Mr. Philpot seconded. The motion was called and carried.

Member Reports

Mr. Myers

Mr. Myers said that Mr. Taminosian has accompanied him over the past few months and is becoming familiar with the nest locations.

- St. Charles Harbor – No eagle activity was seen in the nest. There was no construction going on at the house and Ms. Sweigert confirmed that their management plan prohibited work until after nesting season. He said that the nest had pretty much come down after last year, but there is a structure there now. Ms. Sweigert offered to try and gain access

to get closer to the house, but Mr. Myers said the nest could be seen from the street without too much trouble.

- Daniels Marketplace – could not see a nest or a nest tree there; thought it may be a lost nest.
- Jonathan Harbor – Saw both eagles. One on the side of the nest and one in a pine nearby; couldn't tell if they were incubating yet.
- Sanibel Sunset – the nest was pretty much gone so that may be a lost nest.
- Alico - Saw a head in the nest, so that one is incubating.
- Lakes Park - two months ago he and Mr. Taminosian saw eagles perched on the tower, but more recently they saw nothing there.
- Pickle & Pub – Saw one adult standing around the nest but could not tell if it was incubating.
- Lexington Middle School – it was incubating.
- Sora Drive – not incubating yet, but did see both adults.
- Tortuga – saw one adult perched in a dead Australian Pine, but did not see any activity in the Australian Pine with the nest and that tree did not look like it was doing well either.
- Oriole Road – Saw a white head so they are incubating.

Ms. Sweigert mentioned that Mr. Philpot could monitor the Alico Road and Oriole nests since he lives in that area and it may be easier than having Mr. Taminosian do them.

Mr. Elms

- Manatee Bay Nest - he saw 2 eagles in flight that were in that area over the tree that had a nest at various times. One tree had a nest in it but it almost looked like an immature eagle decided to stop there on the side of the nest, but there was no adult. Could not tell if they were using that nest but there was no actual nesting activities going on.
- Galt – Saw both adults there and one of the adults has been incubating.
- Vacation Lane – Saw two adults in the nest at various times. He has seen glimpses of a white head.
- St. Jude's – Both birds were there, possibly incubating - he estimated 2 to 4 weeks.
- Post Office - no activity there. The wooden frame was still there but hanging down and moss growing on it.
- Pine Island Flatwoods Preserve. About a month ago the nest was in pretty bad shape. When he went there recently the nest was in better shape. He did not see any eagles but did see a pair of Red Tail Hawks. This was the nest about half a mile in. He hasn't seen the other nest further back for quite some time. Laura and Tyler usually try to keep an eye on that one.

Mr. Philpot

- Bayshore Commons – One bird incubating.
- Donald Rd/Pritchett nest – They were incubating.
- Littleton Road – They were incubating and he was able to see them switch so both parents are involved.
- Moody River – He has not had any luck there, but was hoping that when they start bringing food back to the chicks he would have better luck. Ms. Sweigert pointed out an area to the north where she thought the nest might be.
- Creekside Preserve – he's seen one eagle at a time flying but has had trouble locating the nest.

Ms. Hiatt

- Bank of America – she asked if they were monitoring. Ms. Sweigert said they had a monitoring event early in October, but they weren't working in the 660' zone so there has been nothing since. There is still a nest there but it's not in good shape.
- Cubles – she checked at the beginning of the season, but there is nothing down there.
- Barrancas – they are incubating.
- Esther Drive – they are incubating
- Quail Trail – they are incubating.
- Helen Road – She couldn't see anything because everything is so grown over, but there didn't seem to be any activity.
- Pacosin – has seen no activity, no eagles, no nest. She did notice lots of whitewash under the Australian Pine that they perch in right over the road. Last year at the end of season they had not rebuilt the nest but 2 adults perched in that pine then flew to the west over the mangroves. She wondered if they had built something more remote.

Mr. Myers asked about Tranquility Bay. Ms. Sweigert said no one has been out there for a few years, however, she has a contact on Gamebird Lane who just contacted her to say that he found a nest on the north side of Gamebird Lane and they are incubating. She and Mr. DeFilippo have not had a chance to get out there to confirm.

She met with Laura Greeno before Thanksgiving to look at the I-75 & Lockett Road nest back off Laredo. It is in the City of Fort Myers' jurisdiction and southwest of I-75. Ms. Greeno also confirmed she saw 2 adults at the Orange River Blvd. nest that Ms. Sweigert identified as a new nest at the last meeting.

There was no public present. Ms. Hiatt adjourned the meeting at 3:35 p.m.