



MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item 15(D)1

To: Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez, and
Members, Board of County Commissioners

Date: December 6, 2011

From: Harvey Ruvin, Clerk
Circuit and County Courts

Subject: Ballot Appointment of
Members to the Land
Acquisition Selection
Committee

Christopher Agrippa, Division Chief
Clerk of the Board Division

Please select one (1) nominee from the attached ballot to fill a regular vacancy on the Land Acquisition Selection Committee (LASC) created by the passing of Ms. Emily Young.

Chapter 24-50 of the Code provides that the Board of County Commissioners shall appoint, from a list of candidates as recommended by the County Manager, the members of the LASC. As such, the County Mayor has submitted the names of eligible candidates from which a replacement can be selected to fill the vacancy. The nominees are presented as follows:

1. Patricia L. Phares (Florida Native Plant Society)
2. Dr. Mark Kraus (Audubon of Florida)

The ballot, from which the vacancy will be filled, Mayor Carlos A. Gimenez's memorandum dated November 17, 2011, and the resumes and letters of recommendation for all nominees have been attached for your review.

CA/sm
Attachments

COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD BALLOT

Miami-Dade County, Florida

December 6, 2011

LAND ACQUISITION SELECTION COMMITTEE

(Alternate Seat)
APPOINTMENT TO REPLACE EMILY YOUNG
Vote (✓) for One

Patricia L. Phares

Dr. Mark Kraus

Commissioner _____
(Please sign ballot)

Commission District Number _____

Memorandum



Date: November 17, 2011

To: Honorable Harvey Ruvin
Clerk of the Court

From: Carlos A. Gimenez 
Mayor

Subject: Land Acquisition Selection Committee Appointments

The Land Acquisition Selection Committee (LASC) is a county advisory board having seven regular members and one alternate. The LASC advises the Board of County Commissioners on implementing the Environmentally Endangered Lands Program in order to acquire, protect, preserve, restore and enhance the County's environmental lands and the natural resources on those lands for the benefit of this and future generations. LASC member Emily Young passed away on December 11, 2010, creating a vacancy on the board. As required by Chapter 24-50 of the Code of Miami-Dade County, I am hereby submitting two nominees for consideration for appointment by the County Commission to fill the vacancy.

The nominees for the Regular Member vacancy:

1. Patricia L. Phares, 17615 SW 119 Avenue, Miami
2. Dr. Mark Kraus, 8460 SW 141 Street, Palmetto Bay

Chapter 24-50.6 also provides that preference be given to candidates who have a record of service in environmental or civic affairs in Miami-Dade County and who have been recommended by one or more bona fide environmental, civic or professional organizations. Ms. Phares is recommended by the Florida Native Plant Society. Dr. Kraus is recommended by Audubon of Florida.

The nominees' resumes and letters of recommendation are attached. Please schedule the appointments for the County Commission agenda as soon as possible.

Patricia L. Phares (Patty)

17615 SW 119 Ave
Miami FL 33177
305-255-6404 h
pphares@mindspring.com

Employment

Contractor at NOAA Fisheries, Miami (short-term contracts 2007-2009)
Volunteer at NOAA Fisheries, Miami, March 2007-August 2007
Statistician, NOAA Fisheries (Galveston, TX, and Miami), 1977-February 2007
Graduate student assistant, Department of Statistics, University of Florida, 1975-1977
Peace Corps Volunteer, Western Samoa (math and social studies teacher, junior high school), 1973-1974
Graduate student assistant, Department of Mathematics, University of Florida, 1970-1972
Student assistant, Department of Mathematics, Hanover College, 1976-1970

Education

Master of Statistics, University of Florida, 1977
MA, Mathematics, University of Florida, 1972
BA, Mathematics, Hanover College (Hanover, Indiana), 1970
Botany courses, Miami Dade College, 1992

Environmental and Civic Involvement

The Institute for Regional Conservation

Member 2004-present; volunteer (conservation workdays, nursery assistant) 2008-2009;
Board member (beginning September 2011)

Dade Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society

Member, volunteer for most chapter projects and events, regular attendee of monthly meetings and field trips, 1981-present
Newsletter editor or staff, 1986-2011
Field trip planning committee, 2000-present
Native Plant Day committee, 1991-2008 (annual public educational event)
Everglades National Park Coe Visitors Center Landscaping Project steering committee, 2001-present (ongoing planning of the work to be done and coordinating the bi-monthly workdays)
Chapter president, 1988-1994, Chapter board member, 1985-1988
State FNPS Conference Co-chair, 1990 and 2000
Green Palmetto Award for service from the Florida Native Plant Society, 2000

Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, Center for Tropical Plant Conservation volunteer

Rare Plant removal team, 2004-2005.
Occasional field work and nursery assistant, 2002-present.

Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of South Florida

Member, 1986-present

Board member, 2006-present

Annual Everglades Outing (for underserved children) committee and lunch coordinator, 2009-present

North American Butterfly Association, Miami Blue Chapter

Member and volunteer, 2004-present; Board member beginning 2011

Friends of the Gifford Arboretum (University of Miami)

Member 2000-present; volunteer (publicity) 2009-present

Trees for Dade (predecessor of TREEmendous Miami)

Board of Directors, 1991-1999

Cool Communities planting volunteer, 1997-1999

Tropical Audubon Society

Member, 1990-present; Volunteer (docent, grounds) 2008-2009

Miami Bridge

Volunteer at youth shelter 1985-1986

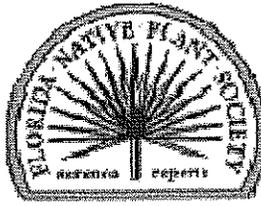
Other organizations

The Nature Conservancy member, 1987-present

Miami-Dade College Community Chorus/ Civic Chorale of Greater Miami member, 1985-present

Coordinating Committee, 2009-present

Dade County Native Plant Workshop attendee, 2008-present



04 September 2011

Cynthia Guerra, Program Director
Environmentally Endangered Lands Program
Miami-Dade County - DERM
701 N.W. 1 Ct., 6th Floor
Miami, FL 33136

Dear Ms. Guerra,

It has been brought to my attention that once again there are openings for the Miami-Dade County Land Acquisition Selection Committee (LASC). It would behoove the mission of the Miami-Dade County Department of Environmental Resource Management Environmentally Endangered Lands Program to accept Ms. Patty Phares on this committee.

As stated in previous letters, Ms. Phares has been a long time advocate and devotee to conservation in South Florida. Such devotion has been evidenced by her involvement with the Florida Native Plant Society (FNPS). Since joining in the 1980's, Ms. Phares has been an active FNPS member & participant aiding FNPS in its mission. Ms. Phares is well suited to the needs of the LASC committee. Ms. Phares has strong community ties and is adeptly familiar with South Florida conservation lands and their rare habitats. She is familiar with South Florida having lived in our fair county for several decades. In addition, you could not find a more knowledgeable person who is capable of using extant resources as well as her in depth knowledge to assist in the analyses determining necessary qualifications for land acquisition. She is also a responsible individual capable of handling several tasks at once while still managing to do a superb job on each one.

I feel strongly that future conservation lands would benefit greatly by having someone like Patty Phares involved in their selection, and I encourage you to accept her to the LASC committee.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Steven W. Woodmansee, President
Florida Native Plant Society
8025 SW 102 Ave.
Miami, FL 33173
president@fnps.org
786.488.3101

The mission of the Florida Native Plant Society (FNPS) is to promote the preservation, conservation, and restoration of native plants and native plant communities. FNPS is a 501(c) 3 not for profit organization registered in the state of Florida.

Mark L Kraus, Ph.D.

Miami Dade College – North Campus
11380 NW 27th Ave.
Miami, FL 33167
305.237.1361
mkraus@mdc.edu

Education

Bachelor of Science	Oceanography (1978) The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC
Master of Science	Ecology (1981) Rutgers University, Piscataway, NJ
Ph.D.	Ecology (1986) Rutgers University, Piscataway, NJ

Employment History

July 2011 – Present	Chair, Department of Natural Science Health and Wellness, Miami Dade College Wolfson Campus, Miami, FL
Nov. -2010 – July 2011	Director – Project PUENTES, Miami Dade College – North Campus, Miami, FL. In this position I am responsible for managing a program jointly run by the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras campus, and MDC. This includes managing an approximately \$1.2 million budget, grant writing, and student advisement.
July 2007 – June 2010	Vice President and COO, Everglades Foundation, Palmetto Bay, FL – In this position I was responsible for managing the day to day operations of the Foundation. This included management of an approximately \$5 million dollar budget, \$1.5 million grant budget and a scientific staff. Other duties include providing expert testimony, major donor contact, presentations and mini-courses to a wide variety of people, and budget preparation and review. I was laid off in June 2010 due to restructuring.
1999 – 2003, April 2004 – July 2007	Deputy Director, Florida State Office of the National Audubon Society (dba Audubon of Florida), Miami, FL – In this position I was responsible for operations of the organization on a statewide basis. I was involved in turning several deficit cost centers around including the Florida Coastal Islands Sanctuaries, the Audubon Center for Birds of Prey, and the Tavernier Science Center, as well as working through the strategic alliance between the Florida and National Audubon Societies. Other responsibilities included serving as a primary press contact, grant proposal preparation and review, major donor contact, and budget preparation and review.
Sept 2003 – April 2004	Interim Executive Director, Audubon of Florida. Directly responsible for day to day operations of the organization, managing the budget (\$5 million), conducting quarterly board meetings, and working with major donors. Successfully reduced the operating budget by \$400,000 to reduce the deficit and bring spending in line with income projections.
1996 – 1999	Director of Restoration Science, National Audubon Society Everglades Restoration Campaign, Miami, FL – In this position I was responsible for leading the Audubon team in review and comment on the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP). This included informational visits with key state and federal legislators and/or their staffs, and working with agency personnel to insure that the plan was ecologically sound. I also served as project manager in the successful effort to stop construction of a commercial airport at the former Homestead Air Force Base (situated between two national parks), as well as on numerous other Everglades issues.

- 1990 – 1996 Education Director, Environmental Concern, St. Michaels, MD – In this position I was responsible for preparing and conducting week-long technical workshops, predominantly for federal agency personnel on a variety of topics including wetland restoration and habitat evaluation. I also conducted courses for other professionals (engineers, real estate agents, consultants) on a variety of topics including wetland delineation and permitting. In this capacity I was also responsible for the design and construction of approximately 20 habitat restoration projects, and oversaw the development of the curriculum guide: *WOW the Wonders Of Wetlands*.
- 1986 – 1990 Wetlands Management Specialist, Hackensack Meadowlands Development Commission, Lyndhurst, NJ – In this position I was responsible for review and comment on development projects submitted to the agency as well as report preparation for the commission. I also supervised a two-year fisheries study on the Hackensack River, and participated in black duck capture and release programs sponsored by the state game commission.
- 1980 – 1986 Environmental Consultant (part-time), J.H. Crow Company, Port Murray, NJ – In this capacity I conducted wetland delineations and prepared the proper documentation for submittal to the Army Corps of Engineers and the NJ Department of Environmental Protection for review and approval.
- 1982 – 1984 Teacher, Marist High School, Bayonne, NJ – I was a classroom teacher with the responsibility of teaching five classes daily that included Honors Biology, General Biology, and Earth Science.

Education Certification

FL Department of Education – Eligible to teach Biology, Chemistry and Earth-Space Science

Associations

Association of State Wetland Managers
Florida Academy of science

Awards

US Army Corps of Engineers provisional Wetland Delineator Certification #WDCP93MD100096B (exp.)
Audubon Ace Award – Team Achievement 1998, 1999, 2000
Audubon Ace Award – Individual Achievement 2001, 2003

Civic Participation

Water Resources Advisory Commission – South Florida Water Management District
Biscayne National Park Buffer Development Review Committee (Chair) – Miami Dade County
Flood Management Review Committee – Miami Dade County
FLDEP Numeric Nutrient Criteria Technical Advisory Committee
Miami Council for International Visitors (conducted Everglades tours for groups from around the world)
Religious Education Teacher 1996 – present. St. Richard Catholic Church, Palmetto Bay, FL



308 North Monroe
Tallahassee, FL 32301
Tel. (850) 222-BIRD
www.audubonofflorida.org

November 6, 2011

Cynthia Guerra
Miami-Dade EEL Program
DERM
710 NW 1 Court, 6th Floor
Miami, Florida 33136

Dear Cynthia:

This is to recommend Dr. Mark Kraus for appointment to the Land Acquisition Selection Committee. I have known Dr. Kraus for fifteen years and have always found him to be honest, informed and reliable. He is a long-term resident and property owner in Miami-Dade and reflects the values of outlook of his community and other citizens.

Audubon of Florida has a strong interest in the work of the Land Acquisition Selection Committee. Miami-Dade contains many important wetlands that function as part of the greater Everglades ecosystem.

Dr. Kraus brings excellent qualifications to the position. He is very familiar with and knowledgeable about the ecology and wildlife of Miami-Dade, has extensive experience working with others on public advisory committees, and does his homework to maximize his effectiveness.

I heartily recommend appointment of Mark Kraus.

Sincerely,

Eric Draper
Executive Director