

Addendum 2—Advisory Group Members and Report

**Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park
Advisory Group Members**

Local Government Representative

The Honorable Rhett Bullard, Mayor
Town of White Springs

The Honorable Josh Smith, Chair
Hamilton County
Board of County Commissioners

The Honorable Ronald Williams
Columbia County
Board of County Commissioners

The Honorable Ricky Gamble, Chair
Suwannee County
Board of County Commissioners

Agency Representatives

Manny Perez, Park Manager
Division of Recreation and Parks
Stephen Foster
Folk Culture Center State Park

Doug Longshore
Florida Forest Service

Megan Wallrichs
Florida Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Commission

Tom Mirti
Suwannee River
Water Management District

Julia Duggins, Archaeologist
Florida Department of State
Division of Historical Resources

**Environmental and Conservation
Group Representative**

Jacqui Sulek
Four Rivers Audubon Society

Local Private Property Owners

Jerry Bullard
Local Resident

**Cultural and Historical Group
Representative**

Margaret Lewis, Vice President
Hamilton County Historical Society

**Recreational User Group
Representatives**

Jeff Glenn
Florida Trail Association

Michael Toffolo
Suwannee Bicycle Association

**Tourism and Economic
Development Representative**

Randy Ogburn
Hamilton County
Tourist Development Council

Citizen Support Organization

Carol Stob, President
Stephen Foster
Citizen Support Organization

Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park Advisory Group Summary Report

The advisory group meeting to review the proposed unit management plan (UMP) for Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park was held at the Stephen Foster Park Auditorium on October 25, 2017 at 9:00 am.

Greg Scott represented Ricky Gamble. Rhett Bullard, Josh Smith, Ronald Williams, Jerry Bullard, Margaret Lewis, and Randy Ogburn were not in attendance. All other appointed advisory group members were present, as well as Deena Woodward. Attending staff were Clif Maxwell, Dan Pearson, Manny Perez, Elaine McGrath, Teri Graves-McKinstry, and Tyler Maldonado.

Mr. Maldonado began the meeting by explaining the purpose of the advisory group and reviewing the meeting agenda. He provided a brief overview of the Division of Recreation and Parks' (DRP) planning process, and Mr. Perez summarized public comments received during the previous evening's public meeting. Mr. Maldonado then asked each member of the advisory group to express his or her comments on the plan.

Summary of Advisory Group Comments

Doug Longshore (Florida Forest Service) asked about how the current timber operations in the Carter Camp Tract of the park would affect the natural resource goals and objectives that are stated in the plan. He suggested revising the natural communities management section to reflect the condition of the resource after the timber operations are completed. It was stated that the plan will be revised to include updated goals and objectives related to longleaf pine planting and the prescribed fire program. An expanded scope of restoration and a more aggressive timetable could be pursued as a part of these updated goals and objectives.

Jeff Glenn (Florida Trail Association) commented that the portion of the Florida National Scenic Trail that runs through the park is heavily used given the easily accessible trailhead and safe parking area. He asked about the primitive campsites that are proposed along the Florida National Scenic Trail and was worried about negative impacts associated with developing impervious infrastructure in this area of the park. It was explained that these primitive campsites are intended to be hike-in only and no impervious infrastructure is proposed to be included. Mr. Glenn pointed out that the plan had only budgeted \$2,600 for the proposed primitive campsites. He offered the assistance of Florida Trail Association volunteers to help implement this proposal. He stated that this type of project would be ideal for Eagle Scouts to complete, who could also help with fundraising. Lastly, he recommended that one of the proposed primitive campsites should be a trail shelter area as opposed to a campsite. This shelter could include a small covered pavilion with picnic tables. He suggested that this type of facility would encourage increased use of the trail.

Jacqui Sulek (Four River Audubon Society) stated that she did not see any downsides to the proposed recreational facilities outlined in the management plan. She asked whether these additional facilities would be attached to additional funding for increased staffing. She commented that the park must have the

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capacity to manage additional facilities, which would more than likely require additional park staff. She mentioned that the Audubon Society could use more volunteers for the Christmas Bird Count that takes place every year and is the largest citizen science program of its kind. She cited the importance of this bird count in providing a snapshot of bird life in the area. She noted a discrepancy in the number of bird species documented in Plant and Animal Species Addendum. She stated that birding is considered one of the most popular recreational activities and contributes significant economic impact to local communities. She suggested creating a handout that would focus on birding and could be distributed at the park as an educational brochure. She also recommended improving the environmental and natural history aspect of the Florida Folk Festival.

Megan Wallrichs (Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission) noted that FWC has updated the status for certain animal species, and the imperiled species table in the management plan should be updated to reflect those status changes. The species of special concern definition has also been revised, and she provided the DRP with the updated definition. She commented on the monitoring level for the gopher frog, frosted flatwoods salamander, and wading birds. Given that the gopher frog has been delisted from the imperiled species list, she suggested updating the imperiled species monitoring objective to replace gopher frog monitoring with a wading bird survey.

Julia Duggins (Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources) commented on the importance of the Florida Folk Festival and inquired about the level of interest that was expressed at the public meeting. She stated that a dedicated folklorist would be beneficial and suggested engaging the Department of State for assistance on the folk culture aspect of the park and festival. She was concerned about sustainable funding sources for the Florida Folk Festival and recommended working with the citizen support organization to secure broader sponsorship to help with the continued funding of the festival. She offered DHR's assistance in applying for grants. She asked about the National Register nomination application that was started but never completed. It was stated that at the time of the application process the structures in question were not yet 50 years old. The structures are now eligible, and the application will be completed. She also asked about the progress being made to repair the Carillon Tower. It was stated that the DRP has received a grant from DHR and is currently developing a scope of work to begin work on the tower. She concluded by reminding the DRP that cultural sites should be monitored on an annual basis. Ms. Duggins also submitted written comments, which can be seen starting on page A 2 - 6.

Deena Woodward (Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources) represented DHR from a historic preservation perspective. She stated that DRP should ensure compliance reviews have been completed for the Carillon Tower to receive funding. This compliance is necessary for any group, including the citizen support organization, to secure funding to repair the tower.

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Michael Toffolo (Suwannee Bicycle Association) asked about when the timber operations contract is scheduled to be completed. It was stated that the contract is supposed to be completed by June 2018. He was concerned with the biking trails in the vicinity of the timber operations. The Suwannee Bicycle Association sponsors several bike rides on the trails in the park, and these events are disrupted by the timbering. It was explained that the DRP intends on repairing the trails once the operations are complete and will reroute some of the trails to avoid sensitive wetland areas. These trails will be relocated slightly upland to more appropriate soil types and natural communities.

Greg Scott (Suwannee County Parks and Recreation) expressed his belief that Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park is a special place for people in the local community and commended the DRP on the work they have done at the park. He stated there is a renewed attention being given to using Amendment 1 funding to acquire additional conservation land, and he suggested the time is ripe to request funding if there are any properties identified that should be added to the boundary of the park. He recommended the DRP should lean on its volunteers and citizen support organization to help secure additional funding for the park. He noted that Suwannee County is pursuing the expansion of its sewer system to incentivize new business development. He commented that this expansion could result in an influx of activity that could increase the economic activity occurring around White Springs and the park. He suggested this increased activity could have an economic spillover effect that could foreseeably increase park usage and attendance.

Carol Stob (Stephen Foster Citizen Support Organization) was concerned with the need to repair the Carillon Tower and wanted to know how quickly work could begin on the much-needed repairs. The Carillon Tower has the world's largest tubular bell system in the world and the bells are not currently ringing. She stated that the citizen support organization has the money to begin phase 1 of the repair process, but needs to be able to apply for grants for the next phases of the project to ensure a scheduled and timely repair process. She suggested that the park should hire a curator for the museums to evaluate and update the dioramas and exhibits. These dioramas and exhibits need content updates, as well as upgrades to the inner mechanics of the displays.

Tom Mirti (Suwannee River Water Management District) commented that the outflow of the Spring House needs to be restored. He stated that the Suwannee River Water Management District expects the Minimum Flows and Levels (MFLs) to be set relatively soon, and these MFLs should inform restoration efforts that take place at the Spring House. He was also concerned with the soil erosion objective in the management plan. He suggested that the objective should state specific ways in which the DRP plans to address soil erosion, as opposed to simply evaluating and assessing the situation.

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Staff Recommendations

The staff recommends approval of the proposed management plans for Stephen Foster Folk Culture State Park as presented, with the following significant changes:

- The natural communities management goals and objectives for restoration and improvement activities will be updated to reflect the new conditions of the Carter Camp Tract as a result of the timber operations currently taking place at the park.
- The imperiled species table will be updated given that some species have been reclassified or delisted by FWC. The species of special concern definition will also be updated.
- The soil erosion resource management objective will be revised to include more specifics on erosion control techniques that are needed at two existing sites: the South Entrance area and the Cable Crossing Primitive Camp.
- The previously sub-leased Nature and Heritage Tourism Center parcel will be added to the optimum boundary map as property that has been identified as surplus to the conservation needs of the park.

Notes on Composition of the Advisory Group

Florida Statutes Chapter 259.032 Paragraph 10(b) establishes a requirement that all state land management plans for properties greater than 160 acres will be reviewed by an advisory group:

“Individual management plans required by s. 253.034(5), for parcels over 160 acres, shall be developed with input from an advisory group. Members of this advisory group shall include, at a minimum, representatives of the lead land managing agency, co-managing entities, local private property owners, the appropriate soil and water conservation district, a local conservation organization, and a local elected official.”

Advisory groups that are composed in compliance with these requirements complete the review of State park management plans. Additional members may be appointed to the groups, such as a representative of the park’s Citizen Support Organization (if one exists), representatives of the recreational activities that exist in or are planned for the park, or representatives of any agency with an ownership interest in the property. Special issues or conditions that require a broader representation for adequate review of the management plan may require the appointment of additional members. The Division’s intent in making these appointments is to create a group that represents a balanced cross-section of the park’s stakeholders. Decisions on appointments are made on a case-by-case basis by Division of Recreation and Parks staff.

Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park
Advisory Group Written Comments



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT *of* STATE

RICK SCOTT
Governor

KEN DETZNER
Secretary of State

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October 30, 2017

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Mr. Maldonado:

The Division of Historical Resources (DHR) has completed its review of the draft unit management plan for Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park, considered at the recent Management Advisory Group (MAG) meeting. Two representatives from DHR participated in the MAG, and we offered comments from the perspective of Compliance Review, Public Lands Archaeology, and Folklife. We shared thoughts on four main topics: The Folk Festival, an unfinished National Register nomination, the Carillon tower, and Compliance Review.

First, the Folk Festival is a significant part of the park's mission (p.1), and DHR wholeheartedly supports continuation and growth of the festival. To that end, a long-term funding plan will be necessary to sustain the Folk Festival. The State's Folklife program highly recommends applying for a DCA grant and an NEA grant. This funding would enable the park to pay artists more and diversify attendance through stronger artist recruitment. Please work with [Amanda Hardeman](#) in our Folklife section so you can prepare documents before the Folk Festival planning ramps up in spring.

The draft Management Plan mentions an unfinished National Register nomination for Stephen Foster memorial resources (p.47). We want to offer our help in resurrecting the nomination, now

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that the memorials are over 50 years old. Please work with [Ruben Acosta](#) in the NR section of DHR on this.

It was great to learn during the advisory meeting that the park has been successful in grant funding from DHR for repairs of the carillon tower. As for the future work contemplated in the plan (p.48), including upgrades to the bells, please consult [Yasha Rodriguez](#) in our Grants section. We support maintaining functional bells as well as the structure of this National Register-listed resource.

Lastly, Deena Woodward commended the park for diligently contacting Compliance Review prior to ground disturbance and historic structure alterations. In our opinion, it is appropriate to include some of these major projects in the summary of achievements during the past planning phase. Please continue to work with Deena, particularly for plans related to the nursery buildings.

The draft plan does a sound job of addressing cultural resources, and we note that the park aims to go above and beyond by managing the resources in the adjacent river, even though the management boundary excludes the river. As for specific comments on the draft plan, we have a few minor edits to recommend:

- 1) On page 45, Paragraph 5 would read more clearly if the second sentence ended with “while three other sites (HA346, HA370, and CO22) are exclusively prehistoric.” Additional paragraph breaks in the *Description* section would make it easier to follow.
- 2) Also in paragraph 5 on page 45, it appears that the fifth sentence should read “HA182 is a campsite and homestead.”
- 3) In the third paragraph on page 46, please change “ceramic lithic artifact scatter” to “ceramic and lithic artifact scatter.”
- 4) On page 45 and in the table on page 53, CO22 is noted as being outside the park boundaries but also one of the resources listed for management. It is possible that the site does extend from the river into the park, but we would note that this probability currently confers no management obligations other than awareness. Please record a terrestrial component with the Florida Master Site File, if you can identify one.
- 5) On pages 68 and 77, six archaeological sites are noted, while elsewhere in the plan eight archaeological sites are noted. Florida Master Site File records show six, and it appears the discrepancy lies in HA432 and CO22 being included in the management plan despite their locations in the Suwannee River outside official park boundaries. It is great that the park is committed to managing the resources in the river. But, please make sure the counts are consistent within the document. It may be helpful to make this note in Table 5 on page 53.

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Advisory Group Written Comments

We appreciate the invitation to the MAG meeting, and we hope you found that our in-person participation was useful. Please contact me with any questions regarding DHR's comments on the plan.

Sincerely,



Julie B. Duggins

CC:
Hank Vinson
James Parker
Jason O'Donoghue
Paulette McFadden
Mary Glowacki
Josh Goodwin
Deena Woodward