

MARCI SHATZMAN MSHATZMAN@TRIBUNE.COM

Boardwalks at Gumbo discussed

Commissioners discussed how to replace the boardwalks, walkways and tower at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center the city has closed.

More than 3,000 people arrived for Sea Turtle Day on Feb. 28 to find them out of service. Staff and volunteers worked around it and the nature walks were moved, Jim Miller, president of Friends of Gumbo Limbo, said at the March 2 meeting of the Greater Boca Raton Beach & Park District. The district oversees Gumbo Limbo as part of Red Reef Park.

"We've known it was an issue," Miller said.

The city declared the

lack of support at the main walkway joist and temporary shoring and handrail supports a safety hazard. "It is our professional opinion that for public safety, the boardwalks at Gumbo Limbo be closed to the public until such time that they are repaired in full or replaced," Jeffrey Bergmann, senior project manager for Bridge Design Associates Inc., said in a letter to the city dated Feb. 22 and presented to commissioners.

But commissioners questioned the city's capital expenditure request to replace the boardwalks, walkways and tower with three

bids, the lowest at \$1.25 million.

"We would want the project done under our own authority and bid it out and manage it," said Commissioner Earl Starkoff.

He would back "any interim measures that would allow us to open" at least a section, he said.

"I agree, especially on a remedial measure to re-open [parts] until they sort this out," said Commissioner Robert K. Rollins Jr. "This project could take six months."

The boardwalks, tower and walkways were built in separate sections in 1983, 1986, 1991 and 2001, according

to a map from Michele Peele, former Friends' president and liaison to the district.

The city has a national report on nature centers that the district requested several times but hadn't seen as of March 2, said Arthur Koski, the district's legal counsel and interim director. The report is public information and the city will eventually ask the district to pay for it, he said.

"I will make another request," he added.

The Friends haven't seen the report either, Miller said, but are glad "someone is taking a look at it for the short and long term."

continued from 1

and a half hours?

The first hour, 4 to 5 p.m. is our check-in, so the whole area is engaging, conversations between people who like to learn. The speakers are 5 to 6:30 p.m. and a dinner break is from 6:30 to 8. The seating is very eclectic with sofas, bean bag chairs, high tops. The second session starts at 8 to 9:30 and a reception follows.

Speakers include a former blogger for Skype, the author of "Living Your Best Life" and DJ Crunchtime, known for mixing music genres. How do you pick them?

I vet speakers who apply online and I look for someone who has done something extraordinary and has talent as well. I go

through about 100, a combination of applicants and speakers I seek out. I coach people how to produce a TEDx talk.

Who goes to TEDx?

People who like to learn and are like minded. We get college kids and people between 30 and 50. Last year, the TEDx event probably only had 10 seniors. They may not know what TED is. This is a speaker series and they can relate to that. We're doing postcards.

Why do you want to broaden your demographic?

We want people to see what's it's all about. We want to educate people with our talks. We want our speakers to have a core message, that idea to share with

continues on 22



Board-Certified Dermatologist

Where Beauty Begins With Great Skin

Voted Best Dermatologist of Delray Beach 2014

GOLD COAST
DERMATOLOGY®

General, Cosmetic and Surgical Dermatology
Danielle Manolakos, D.O., M.P.H., F.A.O.C.D.

5210 Linton Blvd., Suite 304, Delray Beach

561.495.9797

www.goldcoastdermatologycenter.com