

Friends of Delnor - Wiggins Pass State Park
Board Meeting Minutes: November 17, 2014
10:00 AM, CSO Room

Board Members in attendance:

Carol Belfiori, Tom Belfiori, Larry Beer, Marcia Byrd, Joe Gagnier, Elsie Morgan, Phil Nye, Ann Petrillo, Kathe Rasch (by phone), Robert Steiger, David Weinberger (membership).

Absent:

Lori Heath Thorn

Quorum established

Proceedings:

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by Carol Belfiori, President. The March minutes were approved.

Reports of officers/personnel:

President:

Carol reminded us that several members are Patron members and need Family passes issued. McFarland, Gayner, Colvin, and Shaw. Our old brochures have stickers replacing the old Family and Corporate levels and now they can be used. We will use the old brochures until they run out or until we get the new one published. Phil had a card of thanks for David Zimmerman, owner of Royal Scoop, who donated the ice cream for the Nature Festival. We all signed the card and included a page of gate passes.

Treasurer:

Carol read the treasurer's report. As of right now we are \$1200 over budget in expenditures. Recommend suspension of expenditures. ATV was authorized but not in budget. The \$1900 for this expenditure is considered a special assessment. We voted to take that amount out of reserves. Take out of reserves. Even then we are still over budget and we hope for an increase in renewals and new memberships and more gate donations, which were down over the summer as compared to last year. The total tentative profit from the Nature Festival is \$1464.75. Kathe will be getting us updates after she adds in the current checks and takes out the October/November expenses. To make sure we balance we will need to make a few year-end cuts. Kathe has spoken to the people who showed an interest in helping us with accounting/bookkeeping.

Park Personnel:

Bob commented that we have been failing to get vendor permits for our events. Every time someone is selling something at the park during an event sponsored by the Friends, we have to file a vendor permit. He read us the details from the CSO Handbook and stated that he had to create one for Carolyn Shaw when she was a vendor at the recent Nature Festival. There will be a new CSO handbook with more oversight. The Yoga people need one now. Lori needs to get the vendor permits out. We need to write some kind of vendor permit. Larry will write one. Bob reminded us again that this is the Friends' responsibility. Bob said they are partners with us. Any vendor who does not have a tax ID number has to use their SSN, or they cannot participate.

General comments:

Carol said that she and Tom had a one week notice this summer to do a complicated report that involved budget, etc. They were leaving for a trip so Mark and Patty had to do it.

Bob commented that there is increased paper work. The state is overall concerned about ethics. In 2019 the CSOs will be starting over from scratch under new guidelines and will have to reapply.

Unfinished Business:

Discussion about Bala Vinyasa Yoga at the beach – Starting up again in January and continue through May. A motion passed to give a sheet of gate passes for each instructor (2). Carol gave the passes to Bob to give to Lori.

A question as to whether the Beach Stewards can wear qualified t-shirts instead of the hotter uniforms shirts during the summer months – was answered affirmatively by Bob. The Friends will have to plan the t-shirt design and get it approved. We could sell them to the Beach Stewards for cost or gift them.

1) Membership:

2015 dues forms created by Kathe are in use. As soon as the website is updated with the new levels of membership, Kathe will send an email blast for membership renewal. To make up the deficit we need to bring in \$800 in memberships. Elsie asked for clarification of a Friend membership vs a volunteer. Carol said that volunteers are encouraged to join the Friends but that we cannot force anyone to pay for a membership.

Ann had a copy of the new brochure. Almost all revisions have been made. Our webmaster, Alicia, commented that there is no distinction among the levels of membership at the Corporate, Patron, Donation levels. David asked if trailers and boats could be added to the brochure, but Bob said no.

Carol worked for 5 hours at the gate during the Nature Festival. She was surprised at the number of people who have state park passes. Some gave donations to the Friends but others did not. In a two year study, Larry found that only 4 members used all 12 Friends' gate passes.

2) Approval of the Code of Ethics

Ann read the Code of Ethics that we must have. A motion to accept the code as read passed.

3) new accountants/bookkeepers

Kathe reported on the people who volunteered to help with bookkeeping/accounting. She said that she suggested that their time commitment would be on average 1-2 hours per month

4) Watches:

Discussion of lost and found items and how the park handles anything of value that is found. After the prescribed amount of time passes to see if anyone claims them, the items of value are turned over to CSO on a surplus item list. State approves or disapproves surplus. After following these rules, two Rolex watches were turned over to the CSO. Carol had to sign to receive them. They have been appraised by a local jeweler and Gene Byrd will attempt to get another appraisal and see if any jeweler will take them on consignment or buy them outright.

5)Publicity – Sue Huff -

For the Nature Festival, Sue showed up and took photos. Elsie said we need signs on the beach. There was low attendance and almost no kids. The new date was intended to target the local population.

5)credit card use at gate for events

Carol mentioned that only 2 or 3 people wanted to use a credit card for admission at the gate for the Nature Festival. Larry brought up that credit cards have been needed for sales. The device for iPhones is available but we would need to establish an account. It was noted that service for the phones is often sketchy in the park.

6)other

Carol investigated Popcorn bags that hold 2 cups. Staples carries red and white bags. Larry mentioned the possibility of getting our name printed on the bags. Carol wants to get nicer bags than we used at the Nature Festival. Best price was \$26/1000 at Amazon.

Marcia gave a historical background of the Nature Festival, which started out as a park event but then in 2006 became a Friends' event. It is difficult to get members to manage an activity or commit to working. Only 13 people signed up to help out, a few did not show but others not on the list did come and help. It is a fundraiser for the Friends and worthwhile as long as we can still get gate income. A few years ago, Sue Huff told Marcia that the Nature Festival looked tired.

Bob mentioned that others CSOs make their money with off sight events where they rent a hall, hire a band, put on a dinner, and sell tickets.

New Business:

1) New membership chair – David

David had to leave before he could present. Carol said that he had an idea to present at the meeting so Carol will call him. David mentioned before that he might help to promote membership and get donors.

2)Art Show committee

Carol read an email forwarded by Bob and from JoAnn Linck. It was about the One Person Art Show that the resident artist has an option on. Ann Poincican, our 2014 resident artist, chose December. 13th from 10 – 2 PM. It was suggested that we provide cookies and coffee/punch. We should also publicize it and get it on the UAC calendar if it is not too late. Bob said he would get it in the free papers. This is not in the budget. It was decided to give her the space, put up signs, and hope that Bob can get this publicized.

3)2015 Children's Art Show items – Marcia

Lori has emailed the Collier County Schools Art Coordinator with details. He was to send it out to teachers. So far, three schools have committed. Marcia mailed packets to 11 private schools and emailed the four participants from Collier County Schools who entered last year.

4)Nature Festival (Nov15) final wrapup Handled above

5)other

Due to personal reasons and the excessive paperwork from the state, Carol and Tom Belfiori resigned effective immediately.

Adjournment – at 12:33 PM