

**Friends of Delnor-Wiggin Pass State Park Board Meeting  
November 7, 2016**

**Call to order—establishment of a quorum**

The meeting was called to order at 10:08 a.m.

**Board members present:** Milagros Dougan, Kathy Foster, Joe Gagnier, Phil Nye, Ann Petrillo and Valerie Thompson

**Board members absent:** Larry Beer, Marcia Byrd and Gabriella Miyamoto

**Park personnel:** Bob Steiger, Lori Heath Thorn and Mark Nicoletti

**Approval of the October minutes:** The approval of the October minutes was tabled until the Dec. meeting.

**Reports of Officers:**

**President:** Ann complimented Lori on a successful Wildlife Festival. Board members agreed.

**Treasurer:** Milagros distributed the Treasurer's Report

**Park Manager' Report:**

**Bob's transfer:** Bob will be leaving soon to assume his duties as Lovers' Key State Park Manager. His last official day at Delnor-Wiggins Pass S.P. is Nov. 14. Bob thanked the Friends Board for all of the help provided throughout the years. Mark will be filling in for Bob until a new manager is hired.

**Questions for District Manager:**

Board members requested Bob ask the District Manager questions about beach erosion and the selection of a new manager.

**Friends annual Holiday gathering:** Dec. 12 at 5:00 p.m. Mark will check on booking the pavilion. Lori will send out e-mail invitations with a request to RSVP.

**Park Improvements:** South end of Area 5 will be next on the improvement list.

**Traffic issues:** Kathy asked about the winter traffic situation at the park entrance and the Sheriff's Department plans. Mark said using two entry lanes is the preferred method of easing the traffic situation. Off duty deputies will be hired by the County to handle traffic control east of the Park entrance. A meeting between County, FWC, and Park personnel will be held to discuss the traffic issues. Large signs will once again be placed at Conner Park and at the intersection of Bluebill and Gulf Shore.

**Administration Bldg.** Bob informed us that he design for the new Admin. Bldg. is 60% complete. The design is completed by state (with input from DWP Park personnel) and goes to the County for approval, when permits are approved by the County Planners the project goes out for bid. Friends' requested that storage be incorporated into the plan. Board requested that blueprints be shared at next meeting.

**Park Specialist Report:**

Lori said our Park has been invited to present a display table at Naples Preserve, Dec. 9, 10 and 11. Kathy asked Lori to find the projected attendance at the event and what publicity they provide.

Mark shared Information about Vino's Picasso - Paint, Pour, Play!

The idea of giving free popcorn to visitors at Nature Festival was presented, No decision was made.

**Committee Reports:**

**Art Show:**

Kathy reminded Board members that the Art Show is scheduled for Jan. 21. To date there are fourteen paid registrations. Amber Crawley will provide music again.

Kathy distributed Sponsorship information and asked Board members to contact community businesses seeking sponsorships. We have one sponsorship to date: a \$250.00 donation from Wal-Mart Kathy announced that new member Terri Sutherin will head up the drawing of chance; she will be invited to be member of the Art Show committee.

Kathy requested that donations for raffle be new items &/or gift cards with a \$20.00 -\$25.00 minimum value. The 2017 Resident Artist Mary Limont will meet with Lori, Kathy, Mark, and Bob on Nov. 7.

Kathy requested the gate personnel register the times the park closes and reopens on date of Art Show in order to identify the "busiest times".

**Children's Art Show:** February Feb 25 & 26, Saturday & Sunday. No report

**Membership-corporate, patron, ideas to increase membership:** No report

## **Unfinished business**

**Shirts for beach stewards:** Lori said shirts were provided free to Beach Stewards during the summer season. The Friends paid the cost of \$40.00 per shirt. After the initial free shirt, stewards will pay for any additional shirts. Beach stewards who are Friends members receive a 25% discount on additional shirts, non-members pay full price.

**CPA:** Milagros announced 3 candidates are being interviewed for the CPA position. Purchase of QuickBooks software was discussed; cost would be around \$200.00. Milagros will make a recommendation at the next meeting.

**Beach Party:** Todd Richards from the Park concessions presented ideas for beach events. In addition to concession work at Lovers' Key SP, Todd is on their Friends Board. Todd presented information on two major events the Lovers' Key Friends hold.

1. Ribs and Reggae. This event is held three times a year. Various communities are targeted for ticket sales. The ticket price is \$85.00 per couple, which includes food, one drink ticket and admission to the park. Texas Tony's provides the food and drink for a charge: estimated charge of \$8.00 to \$12.00 per person for food, \$2.00 per drink. Texas Tony's also provides a bartender for the evening. One drink comes with the ticket; attendees may purchase tickets for additional drinks. Todd donates chairs, tables, and lighting. Texas Tony's provides bartender. Todd reported that the Friends group net approximately \$5,000 per event. Friends' costs: linens, plates, utensils, paper plates, table decorations, etc.

The Friends have been very pleased with the Texas Tony's partnership. The hard part is selling tickets. They do not advertise the event in the traditional sense. Word of mouth and working with specific communities have been the keys to attendance. Todd estimated 85 – 100 people have attended each Rib and Reggae event.

2. Songwriters at Sunset: American Folk Band. This is a community event, not a fundraiser and held 3 to 4 times a year. There is minimal Ranger involvement. Todd and Friends set up "stage" area and lighting, musicians bring the PA system. The next Songwriters at Sunset is scheduled for Thurs, Dec. 1. (3:30 p.m.) Alcohol permitting was discussed. The Board thanked Todd for providing the food concession for the Nature Fest.

## **New business:**

### **White Trailer:**

Board members questioned keeping the white trailer. Mold and water damage from leaks have been continuing problems. The questions of storage and what to do with the trailer were briefly discussed. Lori will contact Larry to inform him of our concern and get his input. More discussion will be included at a future Board meeting.

### **Merchant Cards**

Milagros presented a comparison of "credit card charging" systems: CDG, Payline and Paypal. All require phone connections. With CDG no personal phone is needed, it has independent equipment. Kathy proposed that we go with CDG because it is a separate unit and is independent from a personal phone. Seconded by Ann.

The Board voted to accept CDG as our credit card charging provider.

### **Tax-exempt statements/cards available:**

Home Depot, Staples, Ace Hardware, Office Depot, Wal-Mart and Michaels cards are kept in the gatehouse, please sign out when taking one for use.

### **Other business:**

Friends December holiday dinner: The decision was made to purchase turkey for the annual event. Kathy will purchase plates, utensils and napkins. Valerie will purchase water.

Joe made a motion to adjourn the meeting

Kathy seconded

**Meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.**

Next meeting will be held at Vanderbilt Surf Colony I

Respectfully submitted by Valerie Thompson, Substitute Secretary      Date Approved \_\_\_\_\_