

**Friends of Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park  
Board Meeting Minutes  
November 5, 2018**

**Board members present:** Marcia Byrd, Milagros Dougan, Kathy Foster, Gabriella Miyamoto, Phil Nye, Todd Richards, and Valerie Thompson

**Board members Absent:** Larry Beer, Joe Gagnier

**Park staff present:** Terrance Torvund, Mireille Gruppo

Board President Kathy Foster called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. A quorum was established.

**Reports of Officers:**

**President's Report:** Kathy reported that a large part of the District #4 meeting was focused on fundraising and volunteering. The state park system has a discrepancy between needs and available money. Park Service cannot seek outside funds, but a CSO as 501c3 can. Friends groups are encouraged to build a strategic plan with long and short-term goals. Presentations also provided information about Florida State Parks Foundation and Interpretation Priorities. The Board discussed the difficulties of fundraising. Todd shared information about Lovers' Key fundraising success and Marcia talked about previous efforts made by the Delnor-Wiggins Friends and referenced the *Strategic Plan* [dated 2/27/2012] which resulted in a rebranding of the group with a new logo and set out goals. Marcia will distribute a copy of the plan to Board members via email.

In other news, Kathy announced the "Adopt a Turtle" program is underway with 20 turtles sold. Twenty-eight are in stock. The turtles will be offered for a donation at the ranger station and also at Friends' meetings and events. Thank you to Todd for donating the initial group of turtles for this project. LaPlaya Resort donated 6 Rod Wiley's photography prints for display in the CSO Room. Also announced, Larry will chair the Nominating Committee for the Board members election that will take place at the January membership meeting.

**Vice President's Report:** no report

**Secretary's Report:** The minutes of the October 1, 2018 Board Meeting were approved. The new *Director's Contact Sheet* was distributed and reviewed for changes.

**Treasurer's Report:** Milagros distributed the November Treasurer's Report and reported no major changes from the previous month. The cash position of the Friends as of October 31, 2018 was \$91,841.69. Milagros reviewed the draft of the updated *Financial Policy*. Suggestions from Board members were considered and discussed and Milagros will make revisions. The revised Policy will be distributed to Board Members via email and its adoption will be voted on at the December Board Meeting.

**Membership Director's Report:** Gabriella reported that currently we have 128 members, including 22 artists who participated in the 2018 Art Show. Ranger Station (gate) sales and using social media, Facebook and Next Door, have proven to be successful in adding new members. Gabriella sends 3 reminder notices to members who have expired memberships. The Board thanked Terrance for encouraging sales of memberships at the ranger station. The Board also thanked Alicia for her efforts in keeping our online membership option working and working with Next Door to spread the word about Friends. A suggestion was made to distribute Friends information/membership pamphlets to people waiting to enter the park when the car line gets backed up. A volunteer would be needed for this distribution.

### **Park Manager's Report:**

Administration & staffing: Terrance announced that Ranger Matt Miller is leaving. His position has been upgraded from Park Ranger to Park Service Specialist. The focus of this position will be maintenance and resource management. A big issue and expense for 2017 was vehicle maintenance: \$11,000 was spent for vehicle maintenance in 2017. A comparison of the number of visitors on the October 27 date was done for 2018 and 2017: This year on Oct. 27, 1231 visited and last year on Oct. 27, 889 visitors were recorded. (The Nature Festival was held on October 27 this year). Terrance provided a Fiscal Recap for all Florida State Parks. Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park was the 14<sup>th</sup> most visited park in the state last year with 460,000 visitors generating \$882,000.00 in revenue for the state. Terrance and Mireille attended the Partners Lunch for Naples Area organizations. Terrance mentioned that the Naples Nature Preserve once again would be inviting community organizations to display at their annual Christmas Festival event.

Program Plan: Terrance discussed an annual Program Plan that is submitted to the State. He will work with Kathy to complete the necessary paperwork.

Maintenance: Terrance said that 3 vehicles are down for maintenance. One is at Frakahatchee State Park for repairs. The Ranger station has been prepped for painting. The vehicle counting system will be installed and up and running in late November. Collier County Transit system will once again provide park access for visitors with the Beach Bus.

Resource management issues: Raccoon control and the planting of sea oats both need to be addressed. Terrance is working to get more FWC officers for park patrol.

Park Specialist: Mireille will be reviewing the volunteer policy. Friends and volunteers are encouraged to prearrange meeting with park personnel rather than dropping in to make requests/ask to meet, etc. The Board congratulated Mireille for a successful Nature Fest. A date change for the event was discussed.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### Seashells and Santa at Delnor-Wiggins Park

Todd provided details and answered questions about the Santa in the Sand event held at Lovers' Key State Park and how a similar event could be held at Delnor-Wiggins. The reservations would be through Everbrite online system. Todd will set up the Facebook and Eventbrite information. Attendance will be limited to 100 children. Attendees must bring an unwrapped toy and pay the Park entry fee. Marcia and Valerie presented ideas for crafts and snacks. The Board approved the Dec. 16, 1-3 p.m. event and a budget of \$130.00. The committee (Marcia, Todd and Valerie) will meet to plan the event. Goals of the event: increase awareness of the Park; provide toys for children (similar to Toys for Tots).

#### Wildlife and Wildland Art Show

Valerie announced that artists' registrations are coming in and currently twelve artists have signed up for the January 19 show.

Children's Art Show: Marcia reported that show information has been distributed to the schools and two schools have replied. Three judges have been confirmed.

### **Unfinished business:**

The \$100.00 donation for the ranger break room will be used to purchase a new chair. Terrance will communicate with the District office concerning sales tax.

### **New Business:**

The Holiday Membership Picnic will take place on December 10 at 11:00 a.m. in the pavilion. The decision was made to purchase a precooked sliced turkey and ask members to bring side dishes. Kathy will ask for volunteers to assist with set up during the next Friends membership meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Valerie Thompson

Date approved: 12.3.18