

**Friends of Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park
Board Meeting Minutes
March 4, 2019**

Board members present: Larry Beer, Milagros Dougan, Kathy Foster, Heidi Gagnon, Gabriella Miyamoto, Phil Nye, Todd Richards, and Valerie Thompson

Park staff present: Terrance Torvund, Mireille Gruppo

President Kathy Foster called the meeting to order at 10.00 a.m. A quorum was established.

President's Report:

Kathy announced that the Amazon Smile program information and directions for accessing the site have been sent via email to all Friends.

Kathy delivered a certificate of appreciation to long-time Board member and Park Volunteer Joe Gagnier in recognition of his service to the Friends and Park.

Heidi will be overseeing the "Adopt a Turtle Program"

Vice President's Report:

Turtle Project: Milagros and Rangers are keeping an inventory, including a list of turtles distributed. The most recent order of turtles has been distributed and a new order was placed on Feb. 25. The decision was made to recognize Ranger James Aldridge for his outstanding efforts at raising donations for the turtle project. A \$25.00 gift card will be presented to him at the next personnel meeting. Kathy and Heidi plan to attend the meeting.

Secretary report: Larry moved that the minutes from the February 4, 2019 Board meeting be approved; Heidi seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved as written.

Treasurer's Report:

Income: Milagros reported that the income in for January 2109 was \$4,607.00, an increase when compared to \$2,820.14 in January 2108. The increase can be attributed to Turtle Project donations, increase in membership and lower apparel costs.

Designated Funds: Recommendations included: Change maturity of \$25,294 CD maturing on March 8 from 1-year to 2-year. Increase designated funds by \$10,000 instead of previously approved \$5,000 when investment is completed in 2019. Milagros will make a recommendation for funds investments at the April Board meeting. Milagros is waiting for Sunbiz.org to update the Friends Board Officer list before investments can be transferred.

Turtle Project: Through February 28, 2019, donation amount for 204 turtles was \$4,080 in revenues. Including donations for the cost of the turtles, the net profit is \$1,882 or \$9.22 per turtle net of \$1,020 for the turtle program.

Art Show: Total revenues of \$3,716 and expenses of \$438 resulted in net income of \$3,278.

Correction per Treasurer: revenues were \$3,7165 and net income was \$3,278.

Donation to Friends of Fakahatchee: After discussion concerning a donation to the Friends of Fakahatchee for our upcoming April 8 visit, Todd moved that the Friends of Delnor-Wiggins Pass S.P. donate \$10.00 per attendee not to exceed \$100.00; Valerie seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the expenditure.

Membership Chair Report:

Membership: Gabriella reported the Friends group has 180 members in good standing; 18 members need to renew.

Member Involvement: Todd presented various ideas on how to increase member participation, giving examples used in the Lover's Key organization: Astrological evening, members' only events, member/non-member pricing for fundraising events. At Lover's Key the Friends group now has a Volunteer Coordinator/Chairperson.

Valerie shared a recent email from Gabriella that listed new members and their interests in volunteering. Mireille will add new member names and information to her volunteer list and contact

interested individuals about volunteering. Committee chairs may also contact the interested members when appropriate.

Marketing Friends Organization: Todd suggested he place a sign at the concession stand in parking area #4 to market Friends memberships and the 15% discount members receive on concession purchases. The Board members agreed that the sign and promotion of the Friends at the concession stand is a good idea.

Friends Brochure: Terrance, Todd, Gabriella and Larry will work on creating a new brochure that will include information about the Park, Friends, and concession offerings. In the short term, an insert to the current Park brochure is a possibility. Gabriella is requesting a standard form be used for memberships.

Park Manager's Report:

Administration: The Park management requested \$55,000 from the State in fixed capital outlay for restroom repairs and renovations. The project scored a #1 priority from the District and was submitted to Tallahassee on Friday.

Plans are moving ahead with Park entrance improvement. No timeline yet.

Parking app is still being worked on.

Visitors' services: Staff will not be doing any interpretive programs in March. New staff needs to be trained and they will take the time to perfect their programs to ensure quality.

Based on the \$64.00 income from the \$2.00 admission fee for bus riders, it is estimated around 30 people rode the Beach Bus into the Park in January,

Park visitation was up 8,750 guests in February 2019 over February 2018.

Maintenance: Painting the ranger station is on the To Do list and staff is waiting for an equipment loan from Myakka S.P. Two golf carts are down for repairs.

Resource management: Raccoon removal project by USDA is under way.

Economic Impact Report: Larry shared information pages from Friends of Florida State Parks (2010 and 2017); Terrance reached out to Carol at the District Office for an update. Todd indicated that perhaps the information can be accessed through the Friends of Florida S. P. website. Terrance will give Larry the contact information he has.

Volunteer Luncheon: Invitations to the March 8 Volunteer Luncheon have been emailed to appropriate volunteers by Mireille.

Fakahatchee Strand Preserve S.P. Trip: Terrance will provide details to Kathy after finalizing arrangements with Fakachatchee staff. Kathy will share information at the March Membership meeting.

Committee Reports:

Children's Art Show: Larry presented a report about the success of the 2019 CAS and suggestions for the 2020 show. He thanked many Friends members and other volunteers who were involved in the two-day event. The Board extended a special thanks to Marcia Byrd for her leadership and outstanding efforts and also thanked the CAS committee members, Mireille, Terrance and other Park personnel and volunteers who contributed to the success of the Show. Ten schools participated with approximately 180 pieces of artwork displayed. Posting the event information on Social Media was judged a success.

Art Show: The 2020 Art Show Committee will be meeting on March 6.

Other:

Publicizing Friends Membership meetings: A suggestion was made to post the meeting date and time on Facebook without using a paid ad. Mireille or Terrance will post meeting information.

Seashells and Santa event was set for Sunday, December 15, 2019. A committee will be established to plan and conduct this event.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,
Valerie Thompson, Secretary

Date approved: April 1, 2019