

**Friends of Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park
Board Meeting Minutes – Pavilion DWPSP
February 1, 2021**

Board members present: Eric Cosentino, Kathy Foster, Clarette Frank, Heidi Gagnon, Ursula Gibbons, Phil Nye, Larry Beer, and Valerie Thompson. **Absent:** Gabriella Miyamoto. (A quorum was established) **Park staff present:** Park Manager Terrance Torvund and Ranger Daniel Coggins

Board President Kathy Foster called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

Presidents Report: Kathy announced that Larry is working with Park Historian James K. Matthews to provide insight and information about the Park's CSO/Friends group. Terrance introduced Ranger Daniel Coggins, the Board members commended him for his recent Lifesaver Award.

Vice President Report: Heidi reported the inventory of critters has been running low. Heidi requested permission to increase the orders so an adequate inventory is on hand. Heidi requested that \$400.00 be used to place an order. Eric moved for the expenditure; Larry seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. Larry suggested that a Friends membership brochure be given to each individual donation to the Adopt a Turtle program along with the critter. Terrance mentioned that additional brochures are needed. Larry asked if there is a way to collect email addresses from the Adopt-a-Turtle donors to use for future marketing.

Secretary Report: The minutes from the January 5, 2021 Board Meeting were approved; Eric made the motion, Clarette seconded. Unanimously approved. January 11, 2021 Board Organizational Meeting; Larry made the motion for approval, Heidi seconded. Unanimously approved.

Treasurers Report: Eric provided a Profit and Loss YTD Comparison for December 2020 vs. December 2019. Notable changes were an increase in Individual Business Contributions and a decrease in turtle donations, gate donations and special event income. Some of the decline in income was due to lower critter donations due to low inventory, other causes can be related to COVID closures and guidelines: fewer gate donations and no Friends events. Overall the total income increase was \$79.47 largely due to Business Contributions. Expenses for the period were up \$1,516.79. When comparing the years, net income was down \$1,437.32.

Adopt-a-turtle expenditure: To build up critter inventory, an additional request for funds to purchase critters was made. In addition to the approval of \$400.00 shown above in the Vice Presidents Report, an additional \$400.00 for more critter purchase was proposed. A motion for the expenditure was made. Clarette moved for approval; Eric seconded. Unanimously approved. The Park Rangers will explore storage solutions for the additional critters

Due to required changes of the Park entrance gate procedures, the Friends donation box has been removed. State guidelines during the pandemic do not allow Park staff to handle cash at the gate. In addition to the Park entrance fees, an estimated \$18,000.00 has been donated to the Park and sent to the State. Terrance will request these donated funds be returned for use in our Park. Terrance plans to purchase an additional vehicle in the fall.

Eric presented the Friend Budget for 2021. Eric predicts a slight loss for 2021 due to cancelled events. The balance at the end of the year will, in part, be determined by donations. Larry moved for budget approval; Phil seconded and the Board unanimously approved it.

Membership: Currently, there are 144 memberships (including both individual and family) in the Friends organization. A new Lifetime Membership card has been designed.

Manager's Report: Administration: Terrance shared the Park budget and noted a loss of \$20,000 for the year. The State has agreed to invest \$250,000 into Park maintenance projects. One Ranger position and an OPS (through July) position are open and approval has been given to fill the vacancies.

Visitor's Services: A District staff member will be meeting with Park personnel and a few CSO Board members on February 24 to complete a review of the Friends organization. Caitlin has sent an email to Board members concerning the training that each member needs to complete and what paperwork needs to be signed and submitted.

The Beach Shuttle will begin on February 6.

The Park is no longer accepting donations for memorial benches. Alternative suggestions for those inquiring may be provided.

The Park staff would like to focus on encouraging more beachgoers and fewer gatherings in picnic areas. Many tables and grills have been removed to enable social distancing. Park staff is pleased with the use of the spaces and considering keeping the areas in this configuration for the foreseeable future.

Resource Management: Using monies from the District, predator removal will take place prior to turtle nesting season.

Maintenance: Terrance continues to work with the engineer for major projects in Area #3 and Area #4. Eric and Terrance will be working together to write grant applications to Florida Friends Foundation. Projects include: boardwalk between areas #2 and #3 and new Ranger Station flooring. Terrance shared ideas for a new bench for Dellora's Garden.

Unfinished/Old Business: Sponsor-a-Turtle-Nest project. Clarette summarized the proposed details of the project. Board members asked questions and added comments. The topic will be discussed again at a future Board meeting;

New Business:

Grant from Park Foundation: covered in Manager's Report

Caitlin's Training Update: covered in Manager's Report

February membership meeting: Due to the pandemic and the State guidelines, the February membership meeting has been cancelled. Kathy will send a Park update via email to Friends members.

Upcoming Dates:

February 8 Membership meeting—cancelled; updates will be distributed via email

March 1, 2021 Friends Board Meeting, 10 am in Park Pavilion.

Adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m. Heidi moved for adjournment, Larry seconded.

Respectfully submitted by
Valerie Thompson
Secretary

Approved: March 1, 2021