

**Friends of Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park  
Board Meeting Minutes – Pavilion DWPSP  
October 4, 2021**

**Board members present:** Eric Cosentino, Kathy Foster, Ursula Gibbons, Phil Nye, and Valerie Thompson **Absent:** Larry Beer, Barb Craig, Gabriella Miyamoto, and Heidi Gagnon. (A quorum was established) **Park staff present:** Park Manager Terrance Torvund and Park Specialist David Baniak

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

**President's Report:**

Kathy welcomed Board members. Her reports included:

Adopt-a-Nest Program: The Committee met to discuss the 2020 project. A summary of the program, including profit and expenses, was sent to Board members and is available upon request. Suggestions for program improvements included substituting the “hatchling” for a glossy photo of the nest in each donor’s “thank you” gift. The committee elected to keep individual and family donations at \$250.00 and, due to increased amount of work involved in working with businesses, the business donors would be asked to donate \$500.00. Twelve businesses participated in the 2021 program.

2021-2022 Calendar: Kathy shared a calendar for the upcoming year. Kathy will also request Alicia put an updated calendar on the Friends’ website. An addition of the October 30 Trunk or Treat to the calendar was noted. The membership meeting for November has been cancelled.

Art Show Drawing of Chance: Kathy distributed a 15 item “wish list” Barb Craig developed for the drawing of chance. Barb or Heidi should be contacted about donations.

Approval of the Park’s 2022 Budget Request Terrance submitted a budget request for 2022. The Board members approved the request through electronic vote in September. It was noted that additional requests may be made as Park needs arise.

**Vice President’s Report:** In Heidi’s absence, Kathy reported on the current inventory of “critters” and updated order information. The Board approved offering the “hatchlings” for a \$10.00 donation. The turtle, dolphin, manatee and gator “critters” are being offered for a \$20.00 donation.

**Secretary’s Report:** Valerie reminded Board members that the minutes are available on the Friends website. Ursula moved for approval of the March 1, 2021 Board meeting minutes, Eric seconded. Unanimous approval.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Eric distributed the January - August 2020 and January -August 2021 P and L YTD Comparison. Income increased in 2021 due to increased income from critter donations, Adopt-A-Nest donations, gate donations, and memberships. Apparel donations and Art Show profit were down due to cancellation of Friends events. Also, income from bank interest was down. Dave’s Buoys Donation line has been closed; any additional funds from that donation stream will be put into the general fund. The overall net ordinary income for this period in 2021 compared to 2020 showed a \$27,287.52 change, 2021: \$46,988.43; 2020: \$19,700.91. Expensed for September included a new ice machine and vehicle repairs. The Friends of Florida State Parks Foundation membership was renewed during the summer. Membership to this organization includes a liability insurance coverage for the Board members.

**Membership Chair's Report:** In Gabriella's absence, Kathy announced that the organization currently has 198 members (including individual and family memberships). That compares with 160 reported at the March 2021 Board meeting.

**Manager's Report:**

Maintenance

Nature Trail: Using funds provided by the Fortune Foundation and the Craig family, many improvements on the trail are underway. PSS Steven Pindel obtained a permit from Collier County to re-deck the Nature Trail Boardwalk. Fourteen trail signs, a large kiosk and two interpretive panels were ordered. The educational kiosk will be placed where the viewing tower was located. Demolition for the yearlong project will begin in the next two weeks.

Tallahassee Projects: Plans are 30% completed for the boardwalk leading to the beach in Area #5. Plans are also in process for new showers and new boardwalk in Area #3. The gopher tortoise survey and the environmental survey have been completed. The asbestos/lead test was completed. Waterproofing/sealer will be put on all wooden boardwalks to extend their lives.

Protection/Resource Management: To help protect the gopher tortoises from road hazards, a speed limit radar sign and a blinking gopher tortoise sign were ordered. A District representative assessed four Australian pine trees on the beach line. It was determined that two of the trees must be removed. Kathy added, "The Friends Board is not responsible for any loss or damage caused by the pine trees."

Visitors' Services/Interpretation: The before-hours pass option will begin starting in November, this type of pass will end with the beginning of sea turtle nesting season. A new "point of sale system" was installed in May. With this system, Park staff does not easily view visitation statistics.

CSO funded projects: UTV bobcat repairs, gator repairs, Dellora's Garden (tortoise barrier and critter camera), ice machine, nature trail, skylights, signs and a new UTV.

**PSS David Baniak:** David reported approximately 350 individuals participated in the September Coastal Clean-up at Delnor-Wiggins. David is working with Ursula to plan the October 30 Trunk or Treat. To date there are eleven artists confirmed for the Art Show. David is considering a small "Ride Along with a Ranger" program.

**Events:**

Seashells and Santa: Barb Craig is chairing the Committee for this event. Craft ideas are being developed and plans are in process.

Membership meetings: Our meeting speakers will be Park staff with a "Meet the Ranger" series.

Trunk or Treat: Oct. 30, 9-11:30. Ursula is chairing the planning for this event. After discussion of the event, Eric moved for approval of a \$75.00 budget, Valerie seconded. Unanimous approval

Upcoming dates: October 11, 10:00 a.m. Membership meeting in the Pavilion  
November 1, 10:00 Board Meeting in Pavilion.

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Valerie Thompson, Secretary

Approved: November 1, 2021