

MINUTES of the Friends of Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park  
Membership Meeting – October 12, 2015

**Board Members in attendance:** Marcia Byrd, Kathy Foster, Phil Nye, Kathe Rasch

**Board Members Absent:** Larry Beer, Joe Gagnier, Elsie Morgan, Ann Petrillo, and Valerie Thompson

**Staff Members in attendance:** Bob Steiger, Lori Heath Thorn

Alliene Liden conducted the 50/50.

**Call to order:** The Membership Meeting of the Friends of Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park was held in the CSO Room at Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park, Naples Florida on October 12, 2015. The meeting convened at 10:07 AM by Phil Nye, Vice President. A quorum was established.

**Phil** welcomed everyone back to the first meeting and welcomed new members. A signup sheet was passed around along with brochures for membership.

The minutes from the April 13, 2015 meeting/picnic were read and approved.

**Kathe Rasch** reported that the checking account has \$17448 and the money market has \$6784. Income over the summer months came from recycling, gate income, and the sale of the kayak. She noted that gate donation income was up somewhat per month compared to 2014. We also received donations from the Salt Warriors Run and from a company that held a wedding at the park. Main expenses were printing and stationery, native plants, and the D & O insurance.

**Bob Steiger**, park manager, alerted us to the significant loss of beach due to storms and dredging. The north end of the park is underwater. He reminded us that the park is on a barrier island where sand comes in and goes out naturally with tides and weather. Park management met with the Collier County Sheriff's department concerning traffic on the bridge during season. Predictions are that there will be more visitors during season than in previous years. Three proposals to alleviate the congestion at the park entrance have been studied and the staff will be conducting a trial period in December and January. The proposals are: 1. Use a ticket machine. 2. Create two ingress lanes by opening up the parking spaces and placing two mobile ticket booths at the end of the gate island, allowing 16 cars to be in two lanes. 3. Have visitors pay as they leave. The egress lane would then be the ticketing gate. Regarding the replacement of boardwalks and ramps to meet code, permits are still pending.

**Lori Heath Thorn** asked for volunteers for the December 12<sup>th</sup> Nature Festival. She passed around a signup sheet for members to volunteer.

Membership update – currently about 80 members.

**Kathy Foster** gave an update on the Art Show to be held on January 16, 2016, from 10 – 3. She asked for volunteers for the day and also for anyone who could help with PR. She reminded everyone that this is the only fundraiser that the Friends hold and that the committee has set a goal to increase profits by 10%. The committee is exploring options for achieving this goal. A signup sheet was passed around.

There was no unfinished business or new business.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 AM.

Respectfully submitted, Marcia Byrd

Date approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Juanita Paul won the 50/50.

Our speaker was Gary Lytton, newly retired director of Rookery Bay and executive director of the Estuary Conservation Association. He brought forward an opportunity for our Friends group to partner with the Friends of Rookery Bay. The ECA has received Walmart foundation grant money and money from the Halstatt Charitable Foundation and with some of this money has helped to fund an eagle scout project and also create Coastal Forums in the months of January through April. If we agree to partner with them, we would be asked to host some of the forums in the park in return could benefit with increased membership, and other fundraising opportunities. The members present gave thumbs up to this opportunity and the board will take it under advisement at the upcoming board meeting.