

Minutes of the Friends of Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park Membership Meeting – March 13, 2017, CSO Room

Board Members in Attendance: Larry Beer, Milagros Dougan, Kathy Foster, Gabriella Miyamoto, Phil Nye and Valerie Thompson.

Board Members Absent: Marcia Byrd, Joe Gagnier and Ann Petrillo

Staff Members Present: Lori Heath-Thorn, Zachary Lozano and Mark Nicoletti

Call to order: Kathy Foster, President, convened the meeting at 10:06 a.m.

Establishment of quorum: A quorum was verified with 17 members, 3 staff and one speaker attending.

Guest Speaker: Carol Imbriani Bennett, Park Programs Development Specialist for District 4 of the Florida Department of Environment Protection was introduced.

Carol provided an orientation to function of CSO (Citizen Support Organization). Four core CSO roles were defined: Volunteers, Outreach to Community, Partners with the Florida Park Service and Fund-raisers.

Carol shared information and handouts concerning CSOs and the State Statutes that define CSO groups and their roles.

In statewide count, she said 84 CSO groups support 118 of the FL State Parks and Trails.

In District 4, 21 CSOs can be found in State Parks that are located from Fakahatchee Strand State Preserve to The Dade Battlefield Historic State Park in Sumter County. Carol discussed a few of the outstanding CSO events from various parks. The "Big 5" areas of volunteer activities and hours tallied in 2016 were outlined:

- Protection 1,251 hours
- Maintenance 14,754 hours
- Visitor Services 62,708 hours
- Administration 43,315 hours
- Resource Management 9,873 hours

In her role as Park Programs Development Specialist, Carol's main responsibilities are:

- Oversees and coordinates the volunteer and CSO programs and works closely with park managers and volunteer coordinators.
- Works closely with Volunteer Division in the Dept. of Environmental Protection in Tallahassee.
- Coaches, trains, and advises

Two CSO meeting were announced:

District 4 CSO meeting: Once a year. This year: March 25, 2017

Statewide CSO meeting: Once a year. Usually 2 days, centrally located in FL.

Zachary explained that he serves as a liaison for the Friends as he communicates CSO ideas, concerns and information to Carol.

Officers' reports

President – Kathy Foster reported on her productive meeting with the Park Rangers.

She announced that 2017 is the 30th year of our CSO in the Park. She requested members share ideas for a commemoration gift from Friends to the Park. Email will be sent to gather ideas.

Secretary – Minutes from the February 13, 2017 meeting were read, amended and approved.

Treasurer – Milagros reported a \$5,500 net income for the first two months of 2017. This amount exceeded the net income for the same period last year because of lower publicity costs. The cash position is \$73,000 distributed among \$45,000 certificates of deposits, money market accounts and demand deposits. The Children's Art Show generated about \$400 net profit compared to an expected loss due to lower publicity costs at the Children's Art Show.

Park Staff

Zachary said that Park staff is also considering the CSO 30th year anniversary gift, focusing on something to enhance visitor experience.

Zachary noted that the Volunteer Recognition Luncheon was successful. Valinda Subic, District 4 Bureau Chief, was a special guest at the event.

We were reminded of the importance of reporting volunteer hours. Zachary will be attending the District 4 CSO meeting on March 25, 2017. He invited Friends Board members to also attend.

Zachary said because of insurance restrictions, Community Service workers are no longer allowed to work in Park. This change has caused a shortage of volunteer hours. Of the five big volunteer categories (RVMAP), current needs are in the maintenance and visitor services areas. Pulling and removal of non-native plants is an ongoing need.

Mark announced phase 2 of the Area #5 boardwalks plan awarded the contract to Kelley Bros. who completed the work on area #1.

Lori reminded members of the upcoming park cleanup dates and mentioned that extra cleanup help would be appreciated on Easter Sunday morning.

Volunteer help in is needed during the week in the gatehouse. Lori will email membership to ask for help.

Committees

Children's Art Show: Kathy shared the mission of the CSA and read Marcia Byrd's report.

Larry thanked Marcia, her committee and dedicated volunteers for all of the work that made the show a great success.

Membership: Gabriella announced we now have 58 members. Memberships are good for a year from the time of renewing or joining. She is always looking for ways to reach out to our community and increase membership.

Alicia commented on Friends' email list and who gets email. The list is purged each March to include only paid members.

Art Show: Valerie thanked the Friends members who attended and volunteered. The income from the show was \$3,465.00. The 20th annual show will be held on January 20, 2018, 9 a.m.-4p.m. Resident Artist Mary Limont will conduct an Earring Making Workshop on March 30, 9-11 a.m. in Area #3. Her one-artist show is planned for early December.

Unfinished Business

Larry announced that the white trailer is empty, cleaned and will be picked up by a veteran's organization.

New Business

Clean up day: Lori requested members sign-up for the March 20 and April 17 dates.

Beach Shuttle: Alicia reported on the new Collier County Beach Trolley pilot program. She has ridden the trolley and had a first-hand report on the system. The fare is \$1.50 or .75 if you are over 65 or under 18 years of age. She shared the route and said the trolley is too big to go in either turn-around at the N or S end of Vanderbilt Beach. Alicia has communicated with our Collier County Commissioner's office staff and the Alternative Transportation Head to voice her concerns and ideas.

Upcoming Dates:

March 20, 2017 8-10 a.m. Clean Up Day, area #3 RSVP to Lori

April 3, 2017 10 a.m. Board Meeting at Surf Colony I. Contact Lori if you wish to attend.

April 10, 2017 time TBA Friends Picnic, pavilion, area #5

April 17, 2017 8-10 a.m. Clean Up Day area #3 RSVP to Lori

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.