

**Notes and MINUTES of the Friends of Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park  
Membership Meeting – January 15, 2018 CSO Room**

**Speaker:** Matthew Douglas Hodge, DEP Environmental Specialist

Topic: Prescribed Fire in the Florida Park Service

A very interesting and informative program was presented. The most important reason for prescribed fires is to promote biological diversity. Slides of successful and unsuccessful fires were shown. DWPSP does not have prescribed burns. Suggested reading in support of prescribed burns: *Guide to the Natural Communities of Florida 2010 Edition*. Spring time is the best time for prescribed burns. The department uses NOAA to pick the right day to burn.

**Business Meeting:**

**Board Members in attendance:** Marcia Byrd, Milagros Dougan, Kathy Foster, Gabriella Miyamoto, Phil Nye, Ann Petrillo, Valerie Thompson

**Board Members Absent:** Larry Beer, Joe Gagnier

**Staff Members Present:** Lori Heath Thorn. Zach Lozano

**Call to order:** The meeting convened at 10:49 AM by Kathy Foster, president. Quorum established.

**Reports from officers, staff and committees:**

**President:** Kathy thanked the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee for the successful celebration.

**Vice President:** Valerie thanked the committee members. Eighty people enjoyed the nice weather, the music, and the food as we dedicated the three-sided interpretive sign in area 5, commemorating this anniversary. Expenses were \$2400 for the event (below budget) and \$7300 for the sign. Special thanks to all the staff for extra efforts to prepare the area, to Lori who worked diligently with the sign committee and was on the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee, and Todd Richards, Naples Beach Adventures, who provided the expertise for the setup and worked early in the day doing the work necessary to place the tables, chairs, etc.

**Secretary:** Minutes from the November Membership Meeting were approved. In Larry's absence, Marcia conducted the board election.

**Election of Directors:** Marcia Byrd read the process for election. Three board members have served three years and their term has expired. Kathy Foster and Valerie Thompson offered to stand for reelection. Ann Petrillo is retiring from the board. Ann was thanked for her years of service to the Friends. Per the by-laws, nominations from the floor were opened. There were none. The slate of nominees was voted upon favorably.

The By-laws state that the president must inform membership of what we have done the preceding year. Kathy has sent this out to the membership at large. It was in the form of *2017 Accomplishments*.

**Treasurer:** The Dellora and Lester Norris foundation donated \$25,000 to the Friends for the renovation and maintenance of the Dellora garden, hurricane related projects and other projects of the Friends. The board will identify the funds required for the Dellora garden and set up a restricted reserve for this project. The balance of the funds will be commingled with funds allocated to the boardwalk project. There are no hurricane related projects.

Including the Dellora and Lester Norris Foundation gift, the Friends received \$41,315 income, which is \$25,794 higher than last year because of the Foundation gift. Expenses reached \$19,143, which are \$9,556 greater than last year because of the 30-year celebration.

Net income for the year was \$22,172. If we remove from net income, the one - time item of the \$25,000 Dellora and Lester Norris Foundation gift and the \$9,727 for the 30-year celebration, net income was up \$965 in 2017 because of higher donations and membership. The funds of the Friends reached \$90,796 as of December 31, 2017.

The 2018 budget was established taking into account the use of some of the funds from the Dellora and Lester Foundation gift. Income was set up at \$16,005, which is about \$1,000 greater than last year from higher donations. Expenses were set at \$18,475, which reflect an increase in State related projects of \$5,500 for a new ATV. The budget results in a \$2,470 loss reflecting the use of reserves for the ATV. Supporting documents are attached to these minutes.

**Park Manager:** Zach reported that the park is hiring a new ranger for an existing position. New grills and picnic tables are replacing the ones lost in Hurricane Irma - 6 grills, 16 picnic tables. All boardwalks are repaired. Zach is looking into a field trip to Gasparilla Island State Park. A suggestion was made to have it on the day of our annual picnic. He is looking into pricing for a bus. **Collier county beach bus** runs on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Due to the cool weather, it has not had much use. The bus drops off passengers in area 3. Riders can flag down the bus along the route. Bus is free but park entry must be paid to the driver - \$2 per person.

**Membership:** Gabriella discussed how to join the Friends and renew memberships at the ranger station and online. The new punch card system is now being used.

**Art Show Committee:** *Wildlife and Wildlands Art Show* on January 20<sup>th</sup>. Valerie discussed the varied artworks in the show, including our Resident Artist's medium of fusion glass. All are hoping for good weather and access to the park. It is the one fund raiser of the year. Artists pay \$50 to enter and 20% of gross sales comes to the Friends. Valerie reminded members to be looking for new artists to recommend next year. Naples Beach Adventures will offer food for sale and popcorn/water will be offered by the Friends. Royal Scoop donates the ice cream which we sell for \$3 per dish. Music will be provided during the day by various musicians. The Drawing of Chance has some very nice items in the bidding.

**Children's Art Show Committee:**

Nine schools are participating this year, the most we have ever had. Possibly it is due to the offer to pick up and deliver the artwork. The committee will organize this process and will meet on January 24<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM in the CSO room. Lori circulated a signup sheet for volunteers. Many volunteers will be needed.

**New business:** The board is working on a financial policy and will establish a financial committee, and an audit committee. A new board member is needed at this time. We are researching a web-cam for the park and Alicia Astorga offered to help with this. Our ongoing goal is to increase membership.

Our boardwalk plan has been submitted to the Friends of Florida State Park, hoping for funding.

**Adjournment:** 11:43

Respectfully submitted,  
Marcia Byrd, Secretary

Date approved: 2.12.18

FRIENDS OF DELNOR-WIGGINS PASS STATE PARK

Treasurer's Report - January 8, 2018

<u>Financial Results</u>	31-Dec-16	31-Dec-15	\$ Change	31-Dec-17	31-Dec-16	\$ Change
Total Income	\$15,520.75	\$17,320.94	(\$1,800.19)	\$41,314.85	\$15,520.75	\$25,794.10
Total Expenses	\$9,587.03	\$8,960.81	\$626.22	\$19,142.88	\$9,587.03	\$9,555.85
Net Income	\$5,933.72	\$8,360.13	(\$2,426.41)	\$22,171.97	\$5,933.72	\$16,238.25

<u>Cash Position</u>	Cash Position 12/31/2016	Cash Position 12/31/2017	Interest Income 2017	Interest Rate
<u>Wells Fargo</u>				
- Checking Account	\$13,129.38	\$10,353.65		
- Money Market Account	\$9,792.85	\$9,797.74	\$4.89	0.05%
<u>Everbank</u>				
- Money Market Account	\$34,726.02	\$35,336.58	\$52.60	0.41%
- Certificate of Deposit				
- 3-Month	\$10,008.51	\$10,068.84	\$118.29	0.80%
- 6-Month		\$10,071.28	\$71.28	0.85%
- 1-Year		\$15,167.63	\$167.63	1.33%
Total	\$67,656.76	\$90,795.72	\$414.69	