

Friends of Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park
Membership Meeting Minutes
October 8, 2018

Board Members Present: Marcia Byrd, Milagros Dougan, Kathy Foster, Gabriella Miyamoto, Phil Nye, Todd Richards

Board Members Absent: Larry Beer, Joe Gagnier, Valerie Thompson

Park Management: Mark Nicoletti, Terrance Torvund

President Kathy Foster welcomed the members to the first meeting of the season. She called the meeting to order at 10:06 AM. A quorum of members was established. She introduced new board member Todd Richards and new park manager, Terrance Torvund, speaker for the meeting.

Speaker, Terrance Torvund, Park Manager:

Terrance Torvund gave an informational PowerPoint presentation beginning with his background in the park system 14 years ago when he started in AmeriCorps at Gold Head Branch State Park in Florida. He has worked at 16 parks in the system in jobs ranging from OPS to Park Manager. Showing images of these parks, Terrance gave their history along with their current status and his involvement with them. Before coming to our park, he was park manager at Collier Seminole State Park.

Terrance shared his expectations, goals, projects, plans, and vision for the future of Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park.

Expectations include: focusing on retaining and developing staff, employing creative means to obtain funding, growing the CSO, building partnerships with the county and other civic organizations, reviewing and training staff monthly on safety procedures, increasing park attendance through a variety of initiatives noting that attendance in August was down 20,000 visitor as compared to August 2017, expanding the use of social media, increasing the expense budget and fixed capital outlay budget, managing our resources citing sea turtle protection, gopher tortoise research, and exotic plant removal.

Current needs and projects:

- Two vehicles to replace the Prius and the truck. Terrance is looking for good used vehicles will ask the CSO to help fund one of these.
- The park entrance is being reconfigured and will include two entrance lanes from the intersection – sidewalk removal, boardwalk through the mangroves possibly (map available)
- Web camera – to be installed on the ranger station by the county
- Nature Fest – October 27, 10 – 3 in Area 3. Volunteers needed – sign up sheet in CSO room
- Collier County shuttle to begin operation again in November
- New shop needed but is on hold due to Irma.
- Restriping parking lots
- Painting ranger station

Controversy:

Terrance and another DEP official met with the county manager, county lawyer, and manager of county parks. Collier County wants to buy the park. The county wants to manage the park, install ticket machines in each parking lot, and move the ranger station. Terrance gave a resounding NO to these requests. The county wants to re-nourish the beach, doubling it in size. That was approved. Finally, the county proposed to build a parking garage back by the boat ramp and improve the boat ramp area. Terrance said the state will consider this proposal.

Business Meeting:

President's Report: Kathy Foster thanked Terrance for his informative speech. She thanked Mark Nicoletti for his role in park management during the interim between park managers. She welcomed Jacquie and Wally Lucas back as *Resident Volunteers*. Kathy continues to attend the monthly ranger meetings with the goal of keeping

communication open between the Friends and park management and finding out what we can do to help the staff/management. Free tee-shirts were offered to all in attendance.

Secretary's Report: The minutes from 3.12.18 were emailed to the membership and were approved.

Treasurer's Report: The attached Treasurer's Report as of August 31, 2018 indicates that the Friends lost \$490 through August 31, 2018 because of the purchase of the ATV for the park. Compared to 2017, revenues were \$1,400 higher mainly because of donations in memory of Mrs. Schmidt. Expenditures were greater than in 2017 by \$6,200 because of the ATV purchase. Compared to budget, the \$490 loss is \$1,200 better than the budget because of the donations in memory Ms. Schmidt. The cash position of the Friends was \$89,835 as of August 31, 2018.

Membership Report: Current membership is 108. About 13 former members have not renewed. Gabriella is always looking for ways to increase membership. Alicia Astoriga recommended using Next Door access along with Facebook. She will assist the membership committee with setting up this way to reach more potential members.

Committee Reports:

- Art Show date: January 19, 2019. Resident Artist will be announced at the December picnic.
- Children's Art Show: February 23-24, 2019. Winning artwork is now displayed in the CSO room.

Park Manager's Report: Terrance covered most of his report in his speech. He spoke more about the changes to be made at the entrance to alleviate congestion at the entrance to the park. The state is paying for this project. He announced that Mireille Gruppo is now the Park Services Specialist. He gave a brief overview of her credentials and is pleased to welcome her in this role.

Old Business: Dellora's Garden is under restoration. John Finer, professor at Ohio State University and member of the Friends volunteered to manage this project. John will be our speaker at the November 12th meeting and will update us on the project. \$25,000 for this project was donated by Lavern Gaynor, daughter of Dellora Norris. The board designated \$500 per year over the next 20 years to be used in updating and maintaining the garden.

New Business: The Adopt a Turtle is underway. Turtles have a colorful hoodie with the Friends' logo on it. Turtles can be adopted with a donation of \$19.99 with \$5 going toward the park turtle preservation program. Thanks to Todd Richardson, new board member, for donating the first family of turtles. Kathy will order more to sell at the Nature Fest.

The ranger "lounge" AKA breakroom is in need of updating. A volunteer group will assist with this project and information on the date and time is forthcoming.

Adjournment 11:20

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Byrd, Secretary pro-tem

Date approved: November 12, 2018