

Minutes of the Friends of Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park Membership Meeting – March 11, 2019

Board members present: Larry Beer, Milagros Dougan, Kathy Foster, Heidi Gagnon, Phil Nye, and Valerie Thompson

Board members Absent: Gabriella Miyamoto and Todd Richards

Park staff present: Terrance Torvund and Mireille Gruppo

Program: Koreshan State Park Volunteer and Docent Coordinator Ron Westcott presented an informative and entertaining session about the history of the Koreshan community and its founder Cyrus Teed. The Koreshan State Historic Site is a state park in Lee County, Florida located on U.S. Highway 41 at Corkscrew Road. Ron shared a list of Park facilities and ongoing activities held at the Park during the year: hiking trails, a boat ramp on the Estero River, 60 campsites, Farmers' Market, Ghost Walk, and regular tours.

President Kathy Foster called the meeting to order.

President's Report: One Board vacancy exists. Kathy encouraged members to consider service on the Board. The Board voted to donate \$10.00 per person, up to \$100.00 to the Friends of Fakahatchee S. P. as a gesture of appreciation for hosting our upcoming visit. Again, members were encouraged to sign up on Smile.Amazon and designate our Park as the nonprofit of choice. Kathy announced she had delivered a certificate of appreciation to Joe Gagnier, a long-time Park Volunteer and Friends Board member.

Vice President's Report: Heidi Gagnon provided an update of the Sea Turtle Project. The most recent order of plush turtles has been received from the supplier. Ranger James Aldridge will be awarded a \$25.00 gift card for his successful efforts in raising donations during this project.

Secretary's Report: Due to the number of members in attendance, a quorum was not established.

Treasurer's Report:

January 2019 income \$4,600; Current cash position: \$104,000. See attached report.

Sea Turtle Project: Through February 28, 2019, donations reached 204 turtles and \$4,080 in revenues; after deducting the cost of the turtles, the net profit is \$1,882 or \$9.22 per turtle. A Friends member is donating the shipping costs. As planned, \$1,020 of the profit was set aside specifically for the Park's sea turtle protection program.

Art Show: Total revenues of \$3,716 and expenses of \$438 result in net income of \$3,278. Compared to 2018, net income is \$346 lower mainly because of lower number of artists. Compared to budget, net income is \$728 better than budget because of higher profitability for the raffle and lower costs.

Children's Art Show: Total revenues of \$1,185 and expenses of \$1,166 result in net income of \$15. Compared to 2018, net income is \$337 lower mainly because of higher printing costs and supplies. Compared to budget, net income is \$100 better because of lower costs

Managers Report

Administration: A budget request to the State from the Park for \$55,000 to make repairs to bathrooms passed through District with a #1 priority and was submitted to Tallahassee.

Plans are progressing for entrance enhancements, which include two lanes coming into the park with a tollbooth in the center to alleviate traffic issue.

Visitors Services: April 13 the Park will host 200 runners in the Delnor-Wiggins 5K from 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. Friends' brochures will be included in the welcome packets.

Park attendance March 1 – 10, 2019 was 24,000 visitors; 8,000 more than the same period in 2018.

Maintenance: A section of the Area 5 Boardwalk has been dismantled. A new path was made through the trees to allow access to beach. Some of the suitable reclaimed wood was used to make an observation deck.

The Kubota vehicle, which was at Frakahatchee S.P. for repairs, is now back at the Park and in use. The repairs were quoted at \$4,600; working through Fakahatchee park personnel the repairs were accomplished for \$700.00 in just two months.

Protection and Resource management:

The Park staff requested \$500.00 of the money raised in the Sea Turtle Protection project be spent for new cages for sea turtle nest protection. Additional money raised through project donations are in reserve for ATV maintenance.

Our District staff is looking into funding an archaeological survey for our beach. An arrowhead has been found in the park and there is the possibility of a shipwreck off shore. This survey would be the next step in re-nourishing the beach.

Projects: No major projects going on during busy season.

Park Specialist:

Mireille said more information about the April 8 Friends Trip to Fakahatchee Preserve State Park will be sent out through email soon.

Programs in Park have been suspended. Program updates and training for staff are planned.

Two cleanup days were announced:

April 22. Earth Day Clean up. Contact Mireille if you are interested in helping.

April 13: Bay Days Clean up. Contact Mireille if Interested.

The Nature Fest is being discussed among Park staff and a date will be announced.

Other Park Issues and information:

Lift station repairs: \$12,000 is available for repairs, in part because through working together with other State Parks money has been saved on other projects.

Service Animals on Beach: Service animals are allowed on beach. Pets and emotional support animals are not allowed on beach. Mireille shared two questions park staff and designated volunteers may ask regarding service animals: Is the dog a service animal required because of a disability? What work or task has the dog been trained to perform? Dogs are allowed on leashes in picnic areas.

The Bluebill Bridge will be under construction and repair in April.

A concern about trash, balloons and artificial flower remains from Park visitors' parties and beach weddings was expressed. Terrance will review the pavilion agreement to make sure the rules of use are in line with other State Parks agreement documents.

Membership Chair's Report:

Kathy thanked rangers for handling turtle donations and membership purchases. Both Friends and Park benefit from these activities. Membership count is 183.

Children's Art Show Report:

Marcia was recognized for her work in overseeing another successful Children's Art Show. Marcia reported that students from 10 schools participated. She gave a special thanks to co-chair Larry Beer. Work has started on 2020 show. Marcia also thanked the rangers for being involved in Rangers' Choice Award. The Beach Bus was very useful in delivering show attendees to area #5. The art show included 180 pieces of artwork. In addition to thanking a dedicated group of volunteers who assisted with the event, Jacquie and Wally were thanked for their continuing support in handling the popcorn and water station, and Milagros and Kevin for attending both days and handling financial matters. Photos are now on the Friends Facebook page and website.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Valerie Thompson

Date approved: October 14, 2019