

Minutes of the Friends of Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park
Membership Meeting - October 14, 2019

Board members present: Milagros Dougan, Kathy Foster, Phil Nye, Todd Richards. Board members absent: Gabriella Miyamoto, Larry Beer, Heidi Gagnon, Valerie Thompson, Clarette Frank. Park staff: Terrance Torvund

Guest Speaker: Savannah Lawson, Education Specialist at Rookery Bay provided an introduction to the Rookery Bay Research Reserve's mission and the efforts that go into accomplishing the goals in stewardship, research and education. Ms. Lawson provided printed information on the Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center's events for the coming season; The Friends of Rookery Bay Adopt a Sea Turtle Nest; and information on the Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center and their Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve guided boat & kayak tours.

Business Meeting: The meeting was called to order at 10:04am. President Kathy Foster announced that Bill Thaller passed away suddenly in July and his wife kindly asked for donations to Friends in lieu of flowers. Bill was a dedicated ranger and will be greatly missed by all.

President:

- * Kathy Foster announced on behalf of the Friends organization, the "Ranger Appreciation Luncheon" on 10/18/19 to thank our Park's rangers for their support in the categories of Friends memberships and our "Adopt a Turtle" program.
- * Summer Projects included: email monthly updates to all members; meetings with Park Mgr and Park Specialist; representation at Rookery Bay Recruitment meeting; Coastal Clean Up Day in our Park; and Clean up Day at the Park's Butterfly Garden
- *Park Mgr and Kathy will attend a 11/5-11/7 statewide CSO & Park Managers meeting, they have been asked to present our fundraising idea of "Adopt A Turtle" program.

Vice President:

Kathy announced that the VP, Heidi Gagnon, was asked to head up the "Adopt A Turtle" program. On Heidi's behalf, Kathy reported that since the program started in the Fall 2018 over 661 stuffed turtles have been adopted through a \$20 donation to Friends. \$5 of each donation goes to the Park's sea turtle preservation program. The \$3,300 has been spent on materials for cages, tires for vehicles used to drive on the beach, and other related sea turtle expenditures. Additionally, it was announced that the 3 month incentive program for the rangers was won by James Aldridge.....for a second time since the program started in Jan. 2019. Due to specific state/district rules, Friends can only provide up to \$25 to a ranger. A Wal-mart gift card was purchased and has been the reward.

Secretary: Kathy announced that minutes from 2/11/19 & 3/11/19 needed to be approved. Todd Richards made a motion to approve the minutes and it was seconded. The minutes as written were approved. Kathy reminded all to go to the Friends of Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park website and go under "Friends Info" to read all minutes.

Treasurer: Milagros reported on the finances of Friends. She first recognized Paul Sands, the Friends volunteer CPA. Paul was thanked by the Board for his volunteer efforts. Cash on hand: \$112,590.21; Friends net income is up \$14,006.18 as of 8/31/19 due to increased revenues from the donations for turtles, increase in memberships and the fact that in 2018 Friends purchased a new ATV for the Park. Donations from the yoga program yielded \$494 from 10/18 - 9/19. The

state/district has announced that if Friends benefit from a contract (we receive 20% of gross from paddle board yoga classes) then Friends have to implement the contract and keep the terms up to date. Milagros reported that \$355 has been donated to Friends on behalf of Bill Thaller.

Membership Report:

- * Kathy announced that a procedure was developed to accept memberships during the summer when the Membership Chr. was out of the country. Currently we have 199 members.
- * A membership 1/3 page form/insert was developed with the Board's input. It will be printed and handed out at the gate & will be used with the brochure.

Park Manager Report: Terrance Torvund announced that the Park is fully staffed; future plans: stripe parking lot #2; repair pot holes in the roads #5 & #4; on going trimming; he announced the observation tower has been removed because of safety issues and he is removing a boardwalk in #5; the middle one of #3; one in area #4; sand paths will be created. The reason is to stretch the Park's maintenance funds. Terrance announced that in 2018 the Park had 120,000 more visitors than 2017! Our Park is number 2 in District #4 for attendance behind Lover's Key Park. Adding a lane at our entrance to relieve the lines of cars waiting to get into the Park is still in the works. It was asked if we are still hoping to build a boardwalk in the mangroves going out to Turkey Bay. Terrance said he is considering using the former tower space to build a kiosk about it and that he has had conversations with board member, Larry Beer about the boardwalk.

Committee Reports:

- * Seashells & Santa event will be on Sunday, 12/15/19, 1pm-3pm. This is the second year for the event. A charity for gift donations will be determined by the Board of Directors. It has been suggested that a \$5.00 charge be added in order to invest the parents to come after they reserve limited attendance for the day of the event. Santa will be Richie Twiefel. Kathy asked for a volunteer to chair the event. Barb Craig volunteered.
- * January 18, 2020 will be the Wildlife and Wildlands Art Show from 9am-4pm. A meeting for the committee is set up for 11/20/19. Six paid registrations have been received.
- * Children's Art Show: will be held Sat. & Sun. Feb. 22, 10-4pm and Feb. 23, 2-6pm. Kathy thanked Terry Nowak for donating his time and funds to make plaques for the framed winners of past years and for hanging the pictures.

Unfinished Business: John Finer, along with Ingrid Twiefel and others, have been watering & weeding the garden as well as transplanting native plants from the Park into Dellora's Garden. Additionally, new seedlings are growing in the nursery beside the CSO building, which will be transplanted into the Garden.

Old Business: Over 300 people cleaned up the Park on 9/21 as part of Coastal Clean Up; On 9/28 a large group cleaned out the Butterfly Garden in #1

Upcoming Dates: 11/2, Nature Fest; 11/4 Friends Board meeting; 11/5-11/7 CSO/Park Mgr state meeting; 11/11 membership meeting

Meeting adjourned at 11:15am

Respectfully submitted by,
Kathy Foster for Valerie Thompson

Approved: November 11, 2019