

Approved (on March 9, 2020) Minutes  
Membership Meeting  
February 10, 2020

**Board members attending:** Larry Beer, Heidi Gagnon, Kathy Foster; Board members absent: Eric Cosentino, Gabriella Miyamoto, Clarette Frank, Phil Nye, Valerie Thompson, Todd Richards. Park Staff attending: Terrance Torvund.

The Friends welcomed our speaker, Katie Moses, Lover's Key Park Manager who gave a very informative history of how the the 175 Florida State Parks system was formed. This year, Florida State Parks is celebrating 85 years of existence.

Additionally, our Florida State Parks are the recent winner of our 4th Gold Medal Award from the National State Parks Association, no other state Park system in the US has even won more than one time.....and our state just won its 4th!!

**President's Report:**

\*Kathy Foster announced the elected officers of the Friends Board of Directors for the coming year: President, Kathy Foster; Vice President, Heidi Gagnon; Secretary Valerie Thompson; Treasurer, Eric Cosentino.

\*Kathy announced and reminded people to please sign up for Smile.Amazon which will provide .5% of orders to our Friends group. Just register: "Supporters of Del-Nor Wiggins Park Inc."

**Vice President's Report:** Heidi brought several turtles and dolphins to our meeting, available for "adoption". Donations continue to come in and we are ordering another 50 turtles. Friends were reminded that \$5 of every donation goes to our Park's Sea Turtle Conservation program. The stuffed animals were well received at the recent Art Show and many were adopted!

**Secretary's Report:** there was not a quorum of members present, so we could not approve the minutes of January's Member meeting.

**Treasurer's Report:** It was reported for the period ending December 31, 2019, total current assets increased \$23,700 to \$120,877 or 20%. Total income increased to \$36,404 or 42% mostly due to turtle/dolphin donations. Expenses decreased 14% to \$12,470 due to reduced membership development costs.

**Park Manager's Report:**

1. Administration:

A. Friends has been asked to budget \$4,100 for the coming year for bathhouse repairs, emergency fund, vehicle repairs, exotic plant removal day, marketing for Park's special events, volunteer beach steward uniforms, office supplies, Nature Fest supplies, and dollars for the September 12, 2020 FI State Park 85th Birthday

celebration. Terrance reminded all that the Friends have already provided \$5,285 toward the purchase of a new UTV (with funds from District).

2. Visitor Services:

A. January 2020, our Park had 59,745 visitors; January 2019, our Park had 43,991 visitors, a gain in visitors of +15,754

3. Interpretation:

- A. there will be ranger talks every Thursday at 9am
- B. Afro Dance will start in February on the last Thursday @5pm
- C. Naples Park will start family Yoga - more information to come

4. Resource Management

A. Terrance attended a sea turtle class recently; over 5 million loggerheads hatched in the state of Florida; Kathy added that Clarette Frank is looking into an "Adopt a Sea Turtle Nest" for our Park at a donation of \$250

5. Maintenance:

- A. The Park is getting 6 new bathhouse doors
- B. removing parking stops at rate of about 10 a week
- C. Rangers are painting the inside of bathhouse #4 & 3 others are complete; Boy Scouts are going to paint inside of bathhouse #2
- D. Boy Scouts replacing the boardwalk next to the concession stand #4

**Committee Reports:**

- A. Children's Art Show: Marcia Byrd, co-chair with Larry Beer, reported there are 8 schools who are participating. Marcia passed around a sign up sheet for the two day event. Marcia asked those attending to come to the Park and see the show.....come early or late to avoid the Park closing. Volunteers will be provided a pass by ranger specialist, Caitlin Brunk.
- B. Membership Report: Kathy reported that we have about 175 Friends members- that number counts this month's renewals
- C. Dellora's Garden: John Finer, Friend volunteer who is managing the Garden reported that he has two bids for an irrigation system and the Board of Directors approved the system spending from a generous donation from Dellora & Lester Norris Foundation that came in the end of last year.

**Old Business:**

- A. The January 22nd Wildlife and Wildlands Art report was given. Net profit, our Friends only fundraiser, netted over \$4,600 with one artist contribution still outstanding. This is the best revenue in the last 6 years.

**Upcoming Dates:**

- \*February 22 & 23 Children's Art Show
- \* March 2, Board of Director's Meeting
- \* March 9 Friends Membership meeting
- \* April 6 Board of Director's Meeting
- \* April 14 Away Member Trip to Conservancy of SW Florida

Respectfully submitted by: Kathy Foster

