

Minutes of the Friends of Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park

Membership Meeting – March 9, 2020

Please note: many of the future activities noted in minutes were cancelled due to the COVID19 shutdown.

Board members present: Kathy Foster and Valerie Thompson. Absent: Larry Beer, Eric Cosentino, Clarette Frank, Heidi Gagnon, Gabriella Miyamoto, Phil Nye, and Todd Richards. Park staff: Terrance Torvund and Shara Marconi Matt. A quorum was established.

Speaker: National Park Ranger Kissell presented the history and mission of the National Park system as the audience was treated to a pictorial tour through America's treasurers. Recreation, preservation and the protection of our valuable public lands were addressed.

President Kathy Foster thanked the speaker and called the business meeting to order at 10:50 a.m.

Children's Art Show: The meeting began with a report from Committee Chair Marcia Byrd. The successful 7th annual Children's Art Show was held February 22 and 23. Nine teachers and their students, representing eight Collier County elementary schools, participated. The exhibition included 160 pieces of artwork. To encourage families of the artists to attend the show, gate passes were issued for free admission. Two hundred-forty passes were distributed to families. Plans for the 8th annual event are already being organized.

President's Report:

Members' Trip to Conservancy of Southwest Florida is planned for April 14. Kathy shared a schedule of the morning and encouraged interested members in attendance to register. Space for the boat ride portion of the morning is limited. Reservations may be made through contacting Park Specialist Caitlin Brunk. Caitlin Brunk: phone: 239-597-6196. Email: Caitlin.Brunk@dep.state.fl.us (use Friends' Conservancy Trip as the subject). An email invitation will be sent out to members soon.

Vice-President: Kathy reported that the plush turtles and dolphins are available for donations and that the Sea Turtle Preservation donation project continues to be popular.

Secretary's Report: Minutes from the January 13, 2020 and February 10, 2020 were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: Eric submitted a written report: Year over year, assets increased \$31,657.30 to \$133,441.00 or about 24%. Total income increased \$12,085.82 or 66% due to the \$10,000 gift from the Dellora and Lester Norris Foundation and a \$500.00 gift from Suncoast Credit Union. Expenses increased to \$5,622.73 due mostly to \$5,284.78 disbursement toward the purchase of an UTV for the Park. Overall, net income increased \$7,956.65 or 63% year over year. In reviewing the 2020 budget, we are estimating income of \$20,290.00, expenses of \$13,015.00 and net income of \$7,275.00.

Kathy introduced and thanked our volunteer CPA Paul Sands.

Manager's Report:

Terrance introduced Park Ranger Shara Matt

Administration: Terrance thanked Friends members for their support, particularly for the recent financial assistance for the purchase of a new ATV.

Terrance mentioned that one of the Park pumps was not functioning and repair or replacement will be expensive. The District will help with funds to address this issue while Friends can help fund other needs.

Visitors' Services: Visitation in February 2020 was down 6,000 individuals over February 2019, due primarily to the cool weather early in the month. Thursday Ranger talks are weekly at 9:00 a.m. A monthly schedule is available at the park and also on the Friends' website. Thursday afternoon programs include Afro-Caribbean Dance on the Beach and Naples Park Elementary School's Family Yoga event.

Resource Management: Park Specialist Stephen Pindel has completed training on raccoon removal. Exotic plant removal is on schedule to meet the Park's goal. Clearing exotic plants from the space between area #4 and the road is the next area for removal.

Maintenance: Ongoing projects include painting the inside of bathhouses and replacing bathhouse doors. The Park staff has been assisted in many improvement projects by Boy Scouts working on their Eagle Scout projects: Past project include: replacement of trash and recycling containers, removal or repair of two boardwalks, and painting a bathhouse. This week, Scout Oen Frost and his team of volunteers will be painting bathhouse #2.

Committee Reports:

Children's Art Show: see above

Park's 9/12/2020 Birthday Party: A birthday party for the Florida Park Services' 85th birthday and Delnor-Wiggins Pass S. P. 50th birthday will take place on September 12, 2020. Kim Finer, Kathy and Valerie will work with Caitlin and Terrance in planning. Members were invited to join the planning committee.

Old Business: Dellora's Garden will have a new watering system. The irrigation system will be installed on March 17 using funds from the Dellora and Lester Norris Foundation.

New Business:

Eagle Scout Project: Oen Frost shared information about his Eagle Scout project and asked for volunteers to help with the painting work.

Generic Park T-shirt: The design of a generic DWPSF t-shirt is being explored. This will replace the previously designed t-shirt for the Wildlife and Wildlands Art Show.

Adopt a Sea Turtle Nest Project: Clarette Frank is heading the committee working on this project. Individuals and business will be invited to sponsor nests. Members will be asked to consider approaching business to share the opportunity to sponsor a nest. More information will be forthcoming.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Valerie Thompson

Approved: January 11, 2021