

**Friends of Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park  
Annual Membership Meeting Minutes – Zoom meeting  
January 11, 2021**

**Board members present:** Larry Beer, Kathy Foster, Heidi Gagnon, Gabriella Miyamoto, Todd Richards and Valerie Thompson. **Absent:** Eric Cosentino, Clarette Frank, and Phil Nye. **Park staff present:** Park Manager Terrance Torvund and Park Specialist Caitlin Brunk

Board President Kathy Foster called the Zoom meeting to order at 10 a.m. A quorum was established.

On behalf of Administrative Assistant Jenn Marques and the Rangers Terrance thanked the Friends and Friends Officers for their support of Park staff.

**President's Report:** Kathy announced that the Friends gifted \$25.00 gift card to each Park staff member during the holidays. Kathy read a thank you note written by Jenn Marques on behalf of all staff.

**Vice President's Report:** Heidi Gagnon reported good sales of the Adopt-a-Turtle program critters. Orders for the popular items are continuing to be placed so that an adequate inventory is maintained. Heidi announced that Shara Marconi Matt was the Ranger donation competition winner for the final quarter of 2020.

**Secretary's Report:** Valerie reminded members that past Board and Membership Minutes could be found on the Friend's website and thanked Alicia Astroga for keeping the website updated. The minutes from the March 9, 2020 meeting were approved. Heidi made the motion for approval; Gabriella seconded. The vote to approve was unanimous.

**Treasurer's Report:** Kathy reminded members that due to COVID-19 restrictions and guidelines, all Park events have been cancelled. This list of events includes the major fundraising event, the Wildlife and Wildlands Art Show. Kathy reported that Treasurer Eric Cosentino has prepared a Friends budget for 2021; it will be presented and discussed at the February Friends Membership Meeting.

**Membership Chair's Report:** Gabriella reported that the membership has been steady and there are currently 179 memberships (combined individual and family) in good standing. Gabriella asked that memberships, new and renewals, be made on-line through the Friends website. Kathy announced that a new "Lifetime" membership has been issued. To increase Friends organization visibility and memberships, Kathy agreed to explore writing and submitting an article to *Florida Weekly*.

**Park Manager's Report:**

Administration and Protection: Terrance reported that red tide is an issue this year and the amount of red tide present at the Park varies daily. The Rangers are noting scattered fish kills and working to keep the beaches cleaned. They are required to wear P95 masks when cleaning up and the masks are in short supply. The District has given the approval to release funds to replace a full-time Ranger position at the Park. The position has been vacant since Ranger Terry Nowak retired in September. The Park doesn't have Collier County helping with traffic control at the entrance this season. The county used their budget to have the deputies patrol their beaches after the lockdown. Collier County Citizen Volunteers directed traffic at the entrance during the recent holiday week.

Visitors' service: There was a drop in visitation in December due to cancellation of events, less visitors traveling and presence of red tide

December 2019 total 44,311 visitors

December 2020 total 37,158

December 15, 2019 total 1,842 visitors

December 15, 2020 total 790 visitors

December 24, 2019 total 1,644 visitors

December 24, 2020 total 1,645 visitors

December 25, 2019 total 2,578 visitors

December 25, 2020 total 1,173 visitors

Resource management: With support from the District, there will be predatory animal control prior to sea turtle season. In the past, the predatory animals have destroyed turtle nests. With increased control and other protection measures, the 2020 nesting season was successful with nest staying safe.

Maintenance: With assistance from the Friends funding, park vehicles are up and running (the ATV is in shop). Boardwalk repairs in Area #3 will begin this week, money for the materials was provided through a donation by the family of a Friends member. State funded projects (\$50,000 in funds) include new showers and new shower pads, Bathhouse #3 renovations and a new boardwalk around the building. A consultant has been hired to work on these projects.

COVID Guidelines: COVID-19 guidelines remain in place for the Park. Employees must wear masks and gloves, Park related/sponsored groups are restricted to no more than 10 individuals, only one employee may ride in any one vehicle, public groups are limited to 50 individuals and social distancing is encouraged.

**Unfinished business:** None

**New Business:** Election of Board of Directors

The terms of three Officers expired in 2021: Kathy Foster, Todd Richards and Valerie Thompson. Gabriella presented the slate for election and asked for any other nominations from the membership. With no other individuals coming forward, the slate included Kathy Foster, Ursula Gibbons, and Valerie Thompson. Gabriella moved to approve the slate, and Heidi seconded the motion. The attending members unanimously approved.

The 3-year term for these Board members will end in 2024.

**Future meetings:**

- Board Meeting: February 1, 2021, 10 a.m. in the Park Pavilion. Members are invited to attend, please register with Kathy if you wish to attend. .
- Membership Meeting: to be determined

Heidi moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 a.m.; Gabriella seconded.

Respectfully submitted by Valerie Thompson

Approved: March 8, 2021