

**Friends of Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park
Board Meeting Minutes
November 4, 2019**

Board members present: Larry Beer, Milagros Dougan, Kathy Foster, Clarette Frank, Heidi Gagnon, Gabriella Miyamoto, Phil Nye, and Valerie Thompson. **Absent:** Todd Richards

Park staff present: Terrance Torvund

President's Report:

- Kathy reported that the Rangers were very appreciative of the recent "Appreciation Luncheon" (Jason's Deli menu) at the Park and she shared photos of the event. All Park staff and resident volunteers working that day were able to attend.
- Kathy attended the October 26 ceremony and reception for Jared Marques Eagle Court of Honor. Jared completed the design, construction and installation of trash and recycle containers at the Park.
- Earth Day Network: Kathy and Caitlin have communicated with this non-profit about organizing a cleanup around Earth Day. In our community, the Network works through Keep Collier Beautiful. The Network would publicize our clean up efforts and may use our logo. The decision to partner will be explored. The Friends are planning to organize a clean up on Monday, April 13, the day following Easter.
- Adopt a Sea Turtle Nest: Kathy shared a fund-raising program that is currently in place at Rookery Bay.
- Nature Fest: Under the leadership of Park Specialist Caitlin, the Nature Fest was a success. Kathy suggested that the Friends fund publicity flyers for the 2020 Show. A publicity article in the *Naples Daily News* "Best Bets" was shared.

Vice President's Report: VP Heidi Gagnon explained the procedures involved in the Adopt-a-Turtle (plush animal) program. Heidi handles the orders, receiving, supplying, etc. and Treasurer Milagros keeps track of the number of turtles sold. Currently, 250 stuffed turtles with Friends logo are in the supplier's stock and an order for 300 more have been placed for China shipment, which takes approximately eight weeks. There is currently some difficulty getting the embroidered sweatshirts. Ranger James Aldridge won the three-month incentive for turtle donations.

Secretary's Report: A quorum (51% or better) was established. October 7, 2019 Board Meeting minutes were approved. Milagros moved for approval, Gabriella seconded. A newly designed Friends notecard was shared.

Treasurer's Report:

- Milagros announced she would not stand for reelection as Treasurer's at the end of her term in January. The Board members expressed their appreciation for her work. Kathy and Valerie will review the bylaws to confirm requirements for election of a new Treasurer.
- The September financial reports show that net income through September 2019 reached \$15,400, which is \$15,550 better than the same period in 2018. Greater revenues from donations for turtles and memberships combined with lower expenses because of the purchase of the ATV last year contributed to the positive performance. Compared to budget, net income through September is \$9,900 better mainly because of the success of the turtle program. In September 2019, total assets reached \$114,775 and board designated assets reached \$65,17.
- Adopt-a-Turtle Program: From September 2018 through October 2019, the Friends received donations for 706 turtles. Total donations have reached \$14,120, given a suggested donation of \$20.00 per turtle. From the donations, \$3,530 has been allocated to the sea turtle program. Net of all costs including the sea turtle program, the Friends have raised \$6,112 for other park projects. The Adopt-a-Turtle program's profit allocations for the sea turtle program will continue to accumulate as a dedicated fund.
- Mr. Paul Sands, our CPA, has indicated that we do not have to segregate the funds available in the turtle program, We just need to keep an excel file that shows the funds donated for the program, the expenditures and the balance remaining. At the end of the year, we can send a copy of the report to Mr. Sands for his files.

Membership Chairperson's Report:

- There are currently 183 memberships. Gabriella explained the difference between an annual Park pass and the Friends membership entry benefit.
- Through Rob Stan's Southwest Florida Television Facebook post, the first of 12 donated individual memberships was awarded through a raffle. Gabriella said that the procedure for registering the membership went smoothly.
- Gabriella will work with Ursula to post a renewal reminder on the Friends Facebook page.
- The Board members thanked Jennifer Marques for working with memberships over the summer.

Park Manager's Report:

- Meeting Speaker: The November 11 Membership Meeting speaker will be Ashlee O'Connor, Panther Outreach Specialist from Florida Fish & Wildlife.
- Administration: In addition to the gate count, the Park staff will be keeping records of the number of visitors coming through the Vanderbilt Beach entrance. Volunteers are needed to assist with the count. The T2 County Grant project that would allow cameras and software to track parking availability is not moving forward. The software vendor went out of business. Terrance reached out to Carol at the District Office for examples of CSO groups' bylaws, no response yet.
- Maintenance: New cleaning contractor, Alba Cleaning, started on Nov. 1. Removal of boardwalks will continue this month with one removed in each parking area. A new floor is being installed in bathhouse #3 men's side and the pavilion bathhouse on the men's side is being renovated. Parking lots are being restriped and ADA parking is being moved where needed. There are plans to paint the Pavilion.
- Visitor Services/Interpretation: The 2019 Nature Fest was an overall success; visitors increased: Nov. 3, 2018—853 visitors, Nov. 2, 2019---1,185 visitors. Terrance will start monthly updates for Friends Facebook and Rob Stan. Beach Bus is currently scheduled to begin on Nov. 29. Terrance will attend the Beach Bus meeting on Nov. 4 and have more information following the meeting.
- Resource Management: Tallahassee is looking for firm to do an archeological survey for the shipwreck site and spoil site for beach re-nourishment. Sea turtle season has officially ended. In addition to nest protection supplies, the Manager's goal for use of the allocated Adopt-a-Turtle income is purchase of an additional vehicle that would be used to patrol on the beach. Terrance let us know that red tide is currently off shore.

Committee Reports:

Seashells and Santa: December 15, 1-3 pm. Barb Craig will chair the committee. The committee will have its initial meeting on Nov. 6 at 10 a.m.

Art Show: January 18, 2020. 9-4 p.m. Artist registrations are being submitted, as of Oct. 30, 10 artists were registered. The next Art Show Committee meeting is scheduled for November 20, 10 a.m. in the CSO Room in the Park.

Children's Art Show: February 22, 10-4 p.m. and February 23, 2-6 p.m. Larry reported that in September, Committee Chair Marcia Byrd, sent out invitations to 46 schools. As of this week, 4 schools have committed to participate. This is about normal response for this time of year.

Unfinished Business: Larry said he had a note from the April Board meeting concerning distribution of profits into designated funds and that the topic would be discussed at the November Board meeting. Kathy will put on the agenda for the next Board meeting.

New Business:

- Terrance and Kathy will be attending the "Park Managers and CSO Representatives Statewide Meeting" November 5-7 in Tampa. In addition to attending sessions and networking, they will present information on the Adopt-a-Turtle project at our Park.
- Volunteers are needed for the Friends December picnic.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:44 a.m.