

**Friends of Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**February 3, 2020**

**Board members present:** Larry Beer, Eric Cosentino, Kathy Foster, Clarette Frank, Heidi Gagnon, Gabriella Miyamoto, Phil Nye, and Valerie Thompson. **Absent:** Todd Richards (A quorum was established)

**Park staff present:** Caitlin Brunk, Stephen Pindel and Terrance Torvund

Board President Kathy Foster called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**President's Report:**

- Thanks to the drawing of chance donors.
- Gifts collected during Seashells and Santa were donated to Pathways Early Education Center of Immokalee. A thank you note has been received from the Center's Director.
- Kathy shared an article in *SWFLA Today* about Fakahatchee State Park boardwalk funding.
- Larry wrote and sent a letter to the Norris Foundation concerning the desire for a boardwalk at Delnor-Wiggins Pass S. P.

**Vice President:**

Heidi reported that Ursula is interested in handling any phone or online orders for the plush animals (dolphins and turtles) Kathy explained that there would be a minimum shipping charge of \$10.00 which would cover shipping of one or two plush animal(s). Kathy will work with Ursula to investigate the amount of time it would take to process and ship orders and determine if shipping is worth the amount of time it would take.

**Secretary:** Minutes from the January 6 Board meeting and January 23 Special Board meeting were unanimously approved as written.

**Treasurer:**

- Treasurer Eric Cosentino presented the year-end financial report,
- Current assets show a 20% increase over the same time last year.
- Eric recommended the elimination of the credit card machine. He is investigating credits and costs in order to close the account. The machine(s) will be sent back to the leasing company. The use of the credit card machine was not cost effective. Only three transactions took place at the January 18 Art Show.
- Eric will prepare a budget for 2020, that will include funding requests from the Park Manager.
- Larry requested that Eric check the CD interest rates at Suncoast Credit Union and compare them with the TIAA rates. It is recommended to transfer \$5,000 to \$10,000 from the Saving account to a CD.
- Audit Committee members: Gabriella, Eric and Terrance will arrange a time to meet for the annual audit.

**Park Manager's Report:**

Terrance presented a budget request.

Visitor Services:

- January 2020 recorded 59,745 visitors compared with 43,991 in 2019.
- Ranger lead interpretative programs are scheduled for every Thursday at 9:00 a.m. at various Park locations.

- Caitlin will electronically send monthly activity poster to Ursula for Facebook, Alicia for the Friends website, Valerie and Kathy
- Terrance will investigate the use of “Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park” on Facebook accounts.

Maintenance:

- New doors for bathhouses is the biggest project this month
- Boardwalks continue to be reduced
- Boy Scouts are participating in painting bathhouses and repairing boardwalks in area 4.

Resource Management:

- Raccoon management continues.
- Sea Turtle Report: 5,000,000 sea turtles hatched in FL in 2019 season. At Delnor-Wiggins Pass S.P., 51 nests were counted with 5,000 hatchlings.

**Membership Report:** Gabriella reported there are 175 members. Individual family passes are being given to families who have artists in the Children’s Art Show.

**Art Show:** The Art Show was a success with beautiful weather and 18 artists displaying their artwork.

**Park t-shirts:** The idea of creating a park t-shirt was discussed. Quality, cost, design all need to be investigated.

**Adopt-a-Sea Turtle Nest:** Clarette presented ideas related to a new program that would raise money for Sea Turtle Protection and Park needs. Ideas included naming nests, creating plaques for placement on nest fencing, social media campaign, individual and corporate level donations, turtle sculpting contest on the beach, video camera focused on a nest and broadcast online,  
 Next step: Terrance will check with district staff about some of the details presented and met with Clarette to discuss the project.

**Recycling:** The Friends took in approximately \$471.00 during 2019 from aluminum recycling. The question of cost effectiveness was discussed.

**Dellora’s garden:** Irrigation system for the garden is being explored. Two contractors have been contacted. One contractor quoted \$1,400 for permits, equipment and installation.

**Children’s Art Show:** Nine school groups have registered to participate. Volunteers are needed. Caitlin will have a volunteer sign-up at the Feb. 10 Friends meeting.

**Volunteer Luncheon:**

\$500.00 has been budgeted for the luncheon  
 The Park Specialist who works with volunteers has organized the event in the past. Kathy will provide Caitlin with information about previous luncheons.

Caitlin reminded everyone to record volunteer hours.  
 Terrance is purchasing a new gate donation box.

Meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Valerie Thompson    Approved: March 2, 2020