

MINUTES of the Friends of Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park
Membership Meeting – November 9, 2015

Board Members in attendance: Larry Beer, Marcia Byrd, Kathy Foster, Gabriella Miyamoto, Phil Nye, Ann Petrillo, Kathe Rasch, Valerie Thompson

Board Members Absent: Joe Gagnier,

Staff Members Present: Bob Steiger

Alliene Liden conducted the 50/50.

Call to order: The Membership Meeting of the Friends of Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park was held in the CSO Room at Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park, Naples Florida on November 9, 2015. The meeting convened at 10:06 AM by Ann Petrillo, president. A quorum was established.

Dr. Phil Allman, FGCU professor of biology, was introduced and updated us with his research on the gopher tortoises at the park. He is grateful that the park has supported his work and data collection which has enabled his students to get to do research too. Three of his students were in attendance. The study started with the question of how many gopher tortoises are in the park. A survey revealed that there are about 200 burrows at Delnor-Wiggins. Extrapolating from that figure is the likelihood that about 100+ tortoises call this park home. A mark and recapture project was described, explaining why some tortoises have antennae on them. Telemetry is used to locate those tortoises with antennas. Student projects have involved placing a canopy over the burrows for protection from predators and observing what the tortoises eat in the coastal habitat. The tortoises at the park seem to be healthy as is measured by their mass. Dr. Allman answered questions and offered to show members the tortoise burrows in area #5 following the meeting.

The business meeting began at 11:00 AM. The “drawing by chance” AKA 50/50 netted \$25 to the winner. The rest was given to the treasurer.

The minutes from the October 12, 2015 meeting were read and approved as corrected.

Reports from officers and staff:

Ann Petrillo reported that Elsie Morgan had resigned from the board. Gabriella Miyamoto, a friend and neighbor of Kathy Foster, joined the board and agreed to chair the membership committee. Ann thanked her for volunteering.

Kathe Rasch reported that she moved \$8,000 from checking to the money market account. \$24,232 is in both accounts as of October 24th and since then an additional \$905 (and there is now a balance of \$24905.15) has been added. Deposits include the 50/50, paddleboard yoga, gate donations, and memberships. Expenses will include money for the Nature Fest and Art Show. Memberships should begin to increase in the months we call season. 2016 gate passes were not yet available, but members can complete their renewal application today.

Bob Steiger announced that after nine months Collier County approved the permit for upgrades to the boardwalks and decking in Area #1. Beach erosion continues. Dredging has been underway since July 5th. State biologists are monitoring the loss of beach on a quarterly basis. They are collecting data to determine the correlation between dredging and erosion at the north end of our beach. The park was approved by the

Tourist Development Council of Collier County to receive \$7200 to fund equipment for moving traffic into the park at a faster rate during season. It will go before the Board of County Commissioners December 8, 2015, for approval if all paper work is signed and approved by the State. Two cash registers and a wireless card reader had to be purchased. Electricity will need to be installed at these portable stations.

Bob reported for Lori who had the day off. More volunteers are needed for the Nature Fest and a signup sheet was circulated. Craft tables are available for members interested in volunteering. Contact Lori for further information. Lovers, Key State Park is holding a yard sale on Saturday, November 14, 2015.

The Naples Preserve is having a Christmas display on Dec. 11-13, 2015 and we are invited to display something with the theme of "Preserving the Holiday Spirit." Members can go to preserve@naplesgov.com to learn more about it. In exchange the Friends can advertise and there is no need to be there except to take the display and pick it up. See Lori if interested in making a display and taking it to the preserve.

Committee Reports:

Art Show: Valerie Thompson reported that several opportunities were available for volunteers on the day of the show. A signup sheet was passed around.

Children's Art Show: Marcia Byrd reminded members that the Children's Art Show will be held February 27-28, 2016. Volunteers will be needed. More on that later.

Unfinished Business: Ann reminded everyone of the December 14, 2015 meeting/holiday party which is a dinner at 5PM at the pavilion. Bob will prepare the ham and members are to bring a side dish.

New Business:

Partnership with Estuary Conservation Association: Marcia reported that the Friends will be hosting four seminars in conjunction with the ECA – Jan, Feb, Apr, May. This partnership offers an opportunity for us to sell products and increase our membership. Volunteers will be needed.

Everblades: The Everblades team is holding a "State Park Recognition" night on Dec 12 and inviting State Parks to have representation as part of the event; two free tickets for organization representatives are provided. Jay & Valerie Thompson volunteered to represent DWP SP and set up an information table prior to the hockey game. Special tickets prices of \$20.00 per ticket are being offered for organization members who wish to attend. A ticket order form was shared with those at the Friends meeting.

Adjourn: 11:27 AM