

# Friends of Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park Membership Meeting Minutes – Zoom meeting

March 8, 2021

**Board members present:** Eric Cosentino, Kathy Foster, Heidi Gagnon, and Valerie Thompson. **Absent:** Larry Beer, Ursula Gibbons, Gabriella Miyamoto and Phil Nye. **Park staff present:** Park Manager Terrance Torvund

President Kathy Foster called the membership meeting to order with a quorum of members present.

**President's Report:** Kathy thanked everyone for joining the meeting and explained that this would be the final membership meeting for the season. She will continue to keep members updated on Friends news and activities throughout the spring and summer via email. Kathy announced the Adopt-a-Turtle Nest fundraising program.

**Vice President's Report:** Heidi introduced the line-up of plush critters to the members and invited people to visit the Park's gatehouse to make donations for the sea turtle preservation program and adopt a critter. Donations may also be made online through the Friends website. Orders for the popular program are ongoing and a shipment of additional manatee critters is expected this week.

**Secretary's Report:** Heidi moved to approve minutes from the January 11, 2020 Membership meeting; Eric seconded the motion. No changes or additions were made. Unanimously approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Eric reported the Profit and Loss YTD Comparison for January 2021 vs. January 2020 showed a decrease in donations for January 2021 (\$11,302.80) due to fewer individual and business contributions. Another change showed a decrease in income (and expenses) from special events due to the cancellation of the Annual Art Show. Membership revenues were up by \$677.55.

**Membership Chair's Report:** Kathy reported there are currently 160 Friends members. She reminded members to renew when their annual memberships come due. Renewals can be completed through the Friends website.

**Manager's Report:** Terrance reported the following:

Visitor's Services: The "Adopt-a-Sea Turtle Nest" program is on track to start April 1. Donors/sponsors are invited to donate \$250.00 for the opportunity to "adopt" a nest for the 2021 nesting season. As a thank you for their donation, each donor will receive an "adoption" certificate, an information sheet about sea turtles (including "Dos and Don'ts"), personalized sign on the nest's protective cage and a plush sea turtle hatching. The Park is taking the lead on this project with the support of the Friends group. Program information and adoption applications will be available soon.

The Park District Office has canceled the memorial bench program and individuals will no longer be able to donate money for purchase of benches with memorial plaques. Alternative remembrance are being suggested.

Administration: Two open Ranger positions have been filled. The District Office has requested Terrance submit a list of Park "needs". Two major items on the list are golf carts. If the District declines to provide funds for these, Terrance will make a request to the State Park Office. If no funding is provided from state sources, the Friends may get the request for a cart. The Florida State Parks Foundation has also contacted Terrance to request a list of projects and items that need funding. He requested a golf cart and also funds for design and permitting for the "Boardwalk through Mangroves".

Funding for the current major improvement project proposal: some new boardwalks, bathroom renovations, new showers, etc. has been held up at the state level and needs to be renegotiated with the designers.

A ranger will be assigned to work in Dellora's garden with volunteer John Finer.

The CAT Beach Bus runs Thursday through Sunday shuttling people from Conner Park to Area #3. The bus is free; entrance to the park for bus riders is \$2.00 each.

Resource management: the District is funding predator control.

Maintenance: Plans are to work on 8 feet of boardwalk per day.

DEP COVID restriction update: In addition to a limit of 10 people at any Park function, rangers are unable to share carts and may only work within 6 feet of anyone for more than 15 minutes. Masks and gloves are being used. These supplies, provided by the District Office, are running low. No events or interpretative Park programs are scheduled.

Amazon Wish List: Board member Ursula Gibbons and Manager Terrance set up the Park's wish list. Terrance explained the wish list program and said staff is excited that items purchased by donors through Amazon are being received. The link to Amazon Wish List is on the Friends website.

**Unfinished Business:** The irrigation system has been installed in Dellora's garden. The sprinkling heads on the system have been damaged by raccoons and will be repaired. The bench will be replaced and is on order. Butterfly orchids have been placed in the trees. Improvements and beautification in the garden continue.

**New Business:** The Marketing Department in the Florida Department of Environmental Protection has donated hard paddleboards to selected parks throughout the state for fund raising. Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park has received one. The fundraiser must be completed by December 31, 2021. Ideas are being discussed and more information will be shared at a later date.

**Adjournment:** The motion was made to adjourn the meeting, Heidi seconded. Unanimously approved.

**Upcoming events:**

April 5, 2021 10:00 Board of Directors meeting, Park Pavilion

Respectfully submitted by  
Valerie Thompson  
Secretary

Approved: October 11, 2021