

**Friends of Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park
Membership Meeting Minutes – CSO Room DWPSP
February 14, 2022**

Board members present: Barb Craig, Kim Finer, Kathy Foster, Heidi Gagnon, Ursula Gibbons, Valerie Thompson and Donna Wallin **Absent:** Eric Cosentino and Gabriella Miyamoto. **Park staff present:** Park Manager Terrance Torvund and PSS David Baniak

Resident Volunteer Kathleen Beebe and Shell Lady Barb Grove presented an informative talk about the shells of DWPSP. Barb described her role as “Shell Lady” and told of her educational encounters with Park visitors. She reminded us that there is much to learn in the ocean and our environment. Barb can be found on the beach at the north end of area #4 from 8-10:30 a.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays engaging visitors of all ages as she answers their shell questions. Kathleen shared tips for identifying, cleaning, and preserving shells. She created a new exhibit board that shows shells that can be found in our Park.

Friends President Ursula Gibbons called the business meeting to order at 10:25 a.m. (A quorum was established)

President’s Report: Ursula introduced two new Friends Board members: Kim Finer and Donna Wallin. She thanked past President Kathy Foster for her years of leadership and work for the organization. Ursula also thanked past Board members Larry Beer and Phil Nye for their long-time service and dedication to the Park and Friends organization.

Vice-President’s Report: Heidi explained the critter donation project and introduced the four critters that are in our inventory. She also pointed out that hats and Park stickers are also available.

Secretary’s Report: Valerie reminded members that the minutes are available on the Friends website. The minutes from the January 10, 2022 Membership Meeting were entered for consideration. Skip Councilman made a motion for approval; Kathy Foster seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Treasurer’s Report: Ursula shared a report from Treasurer Eric Cosentino: Year over year as of December 31st 2021 total assets increased by \$32,412.40 or 18.2%. Direct public support: critter donations, gate donations and the “Adopt-a-Turtle” program, increased by \$29,133.32 or 56.2%. Overall, net income increased \$41,758.43 or 53.3%. Expenses were up year-over-year 69.4% with funds used for Park facility repairs, maintenance, and equipment.

Membership Chairperson’s Report: Currently there are 275 memberships (including individual and family memberships).

Park Manager’s Reports:

Recent Friends-supported additions to the Park:

Washing Machine, refrigerator, speed limit sign, gopher tortoise sign, Argo amphibious vehicle

Administration:

- A new ranger will be added to the staff at the beginning of March.
- With Steven Pindel moving from DWPSP to the State Park District Office, a PSS position is now open.

Visitor Services:

- Florida State Parks has a new Jr. Ranger Program Promotion. They have partnered with Florida Pre-paid and will select 10 Jr. Rangers to receive a 1-year Florida University Plan scholarship.

- Park Closures questions. Drivers without a Collier County Parking Sticker are now required to pay \$10.00 to park in the Conner Park Parking lot. When the DWPSP is full, the rule for reopening is thirty cars out-thirty cars in.
- A new process for charging an entry fee to visitors who walk into the Park through the public access beach entry is being investigated.

Resources management/Protection:

- The gopher tortoise sign and speed limit sign are up and seem to be working.

Maintenance:

- High water bills alerted staff that a water leak might be occurring. After searching for the leak, it has been recommended that shut-off valves be installed to determine the location of the leak. Investigation will continue.
- Major Project list was submitted to Tallahassee:
 - Finish the Boardwalk around Bathhouse #3 and install new showers: shovel ready; we have plans and permits -- \$225,000.00
 - Resurface .5 miles of road -- \$500,000.00
 - Replace boardwalk between Area #3 and Bathhouse #2.
 - Boardwalk north out to the point.

Committee Reports:

Wildlife and Wildlands Art Show: Kathy reported that the 2022 Art Show resulted in a net profit of approximately \$5,000.00, the exact amount would be reported at a later meeting. Twenty-two artists participated in the show and contributed \$2,898.60. Kathy asked for volunteers to chair next year's show. Donna Wallin volunteered to head up this event for 2023.

Children's Art Show: Marcia announced the 8th Annual Children's Art Show would take place on February 26 and 27. She reviewed the history of the show that took its inspiration from a similar show at the Gamble Plantation State Historical Park. This year, K-grade 5 students from eight Collier County Schools will be participating in the popular show. Winners receive ribbons and cash awards for their schools. It was agreed that twelve critters could be purchased from the Friends inventory at cost so each winner could receive a critter in addition to the ribbon. Funds for the purchase were from member donations made following the meeting. Marcia asked for volunteers to help with the show. Barb Craig volunteered to chair the 2023 Children's Art Show. Marcia thanked Terrance and Park AA Jenn Marques for securing the Beach Bus for the weekend event. We all thanked Marcia for her work to establish, plan and present the annual show.

New Business:

Nature Trail Construction: PSS David Baniak asked for volunteers to help finish construction of the Nature Trail. Those interested should contact him.

Friends Field Trip: Ursula announced that the Friends Field Trip is being planned for April 11 and more information will be forthcoming.

Future Date:

March 7, 2022 Friends Board Meeting, 10:00 a.m. Park pavilion
 March 14, 2022 Friends Members Meeting 10:00 a.m. in the Park
 April 4, 2022 Friends Board Meeting, 10:00 a.m. in the Park
 April 11, 2022 Friends Field Trip, TBA

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Valerie Thompson, Secretary

Approved: March 14, 2022