

Friends of Delnor - Wiggins Pass State Park

Board Meeting Minutes: Nov 6, 2017

Monday 10 AM – CSO Room

Board members present: Larry Beer, Marcia Byrd, Milagros Dougan, Kathy Foster, Gabriella Miyamoto, Phil Nye, Ann Petrillo, Valerie Thompson

Board members absent: Joe Gagnier **Staff present:** Zach Lozano and Lori Heath Thorn **Others:** Todd Richards

Officer/Staff Reports:

President –

Kathy convened the meeting at 10:03 AM

We all welcomed Ann back from Europe where her return was delayed due to a bout with pneumonia.

Kathy and Zach met with Stephanie Jonas, assistant principal at Naples Park Elementary School. The Children's Art Show Guidelines were presented to her and Kathy encouraged her to promote the event with the school's art teacher. The outcome was that the art teacher will participate in the show. A partnership was formed with the school and our park. The partnership will involve learning opportunities for the children at some point.

Kathy attended the October ranger meeting where she thanked the rangers for their heroic efforts to get the park reopened after Hurricane Irma. The Friends will provide a thank you lunch at 11 AM on November 10th. Valerie and Milagros will pick up their orders at Jason's Deli and bring them to the park. Board members were encouraged to join them.

Kathy attended the Friends of Florida State Parks meeting on November 3 in Orlando. On October 30, the board received documents including the agenda for the meeting. Following the FFSP meeting, Kathy and Zach attended the statewide meeting for CSO presidents and park managers. The new deputy secretary David Clark was introduced at this meeting. Kathy described him as dynamic, energetic, impressive. A new Florida Park Service director has been appointed. FFSP is going to reorganize after receiving an \$18 million endowment. The money came from a visitor to a park! The State CSO/manager meeting offered many good ideas. One suggestion was that a succession plan should be in place for the boards. Three areas of focus by FFSP is CSO support, education in the parks, especially for children, and accessibility for all state parks. The meeting proved valuable for Kathy and Zach.

Kathy kept up communications with the board and membership over the summer. She instituted a new plan of sending the unapproved minutes to the general membership, so they can read them before the next meeting.

Vice President – Valerie gave an update on the 30th anniversary event on Dec 8, in area 5, commencing at 4:30 PM. The committee visited the area which now has electrical power, is ADA compliant, and has gulf views now thanks to Irma. Artichoke & Co is catering lite bites and beverage tickets can be purchased for \$5 with offerings of beer, wine, and raspberry mojito. Water and soft drinks will be free. The musician is guitarist, Eric Ringsmuth. Todd Richards, our concessionaire, will be at the area early on the day of the event. Todd is doing a lot to help us.. He will provide tables and many other necessary items. He has become a partner with us in this venture and we really appreciate his expertise and his assistance. The program flyer is under development. The invitations were mailed on November 4th. A sample invitation was circulated. Valerie read the names of eight special guests who will be invited. Volunteers will be needed for the day. Lori reported on the interpretive sign which is underway. Todd has staged the area. The committee will meet following the membership on November 13th.

The 20th Annual Wildlife and Wildlands Art Show will be held again on Jan 20th. This year registration forms were sent by email to cut down on postage costs. There are 14 artists who have paid the \$50 entry fee. The committee is on the lookout for new artists, enlisting help from the board members. They are investigating possibility of setting up Friday evening. Some artists want to set up earlier. Todd agreed to set up his concession stand again for this event. We are grateful for that. Beach Box is sponsoring again. Nov 16th, a workshop in the park, 9 – 11, featuring 2017 Resident Artist Mary Limont's jewelry classes again. Katie Parks will manage the drawing of chance. The committee requests that members donate items or gift cards for the drawing of chance.

Membership - Gabriella reported that we have between 80 and 83 members. She wants to revisit plans to solicit members. Realtors have been contacted but so far there is no action from them on gifting clients CSO memberships. She will look again at direct mailing in the general area and make contact with her connection at the Dunes to see about promoting memberships to the Friends.

Selling memberships at the gate is a new plan modeled on Lover's Key's system. The hope is that it will make it easier for folks to join. Kathy, Zach, Milagros, and Gabriella drew up guidelines for this new program which includes obligations of the Friends, and procedures for the rangers. After Kathy read the CSO & ranger obligations, there were no objections and these procedures were accepted. A flyer advertising this opportunity will be added to display case at the gate. Larry suggested that we offer something to rangers as an incentive to sell our memberships. Another big thank you goes to Todd for offering a 15% discount for purchases at his concession, same as is done at Lover's Key. The actual membership card from Lover's Key was passed around. A suggestion was made to create business card sized punch cards instead of passes for the Friends to distribute for each new membership.

Kathy mentioned that at the December meeting we should submit goals for our organization.

A Speakers Bureau has been formed and the list of speakers at the upcoming membership meetings is attached and has been sent to the website manager.

Yet another **Thank You** goes to Todd for passing on the Children's Art Show packet to his child's art teacher at Veterans Park Elementary School.

Secretary – A quorum was established, and the minutes of the May 5, 2017 minutes were approved. Children’s Art Show guidelines have been sent to schools. Two schools have already signed on. Dates are February 24 – 25. Gate passes for parents will be given to parents whose children’s artwork is in the show.

Treasurer – Milagros reported a total income as of Oct. 31 of \$13,120.82 which is about the same as the previous year. Expenses are \$6,983.88, which are \$1,579.20 less than the previous year because of lower State related projects and apparel expenses. The net income of \$6,136.94 is \$1,544.01 better than last year because of lower expenditures.

From May to October, net income is \$5,006.27, mainly from gate donations, individual/business donations and recycling revenues. Expenditures reach \$2,731.52 over the same period, mainly for insurance and park expenditures.

Total cash position is \$74,290.62 maintained at Everbank and Wells Fargo. Milagros will transfer \$6,000 from Everbank to Wells Fargo in November to cover the expenditures for the 30-year celebration.

Total cost of 30-year celebration estimated at \$9,834, \$2,500 for the party and \$7,334 for the interpretative design.

Credit cards with a total credit limit of \$2,500 open in the Summer, \$1,000 credit limit for both the park manager and the assistant park manager, and \$500 for the treasurer. Attached is the treasurer’s report.

Park Manager –

Zach discussed the new state policy on the use of credit cards. Credit cards are preferred over debit cards with a maximum of \$1000 allowed for managers.

The Florida State Parks announced that money was available for ADA accessibility projects. Zach submitted a proposal for a Mobi-Mat for the kayak launch. This is portable non-slip wheelchair beach access mat for building handicapped accessible paths at fishing piers and boat-ramps. It was approved and funded for \$3100.

The Garden Street Recycling dumpster is now enclosed and holds more.

Zach met with the transit authority about the free Beach shuttle. Starting in December, it will stop at the park and drop off passengers in area 2 or 3. The shuttle driver will collect \$2 per person and keep a log of the number of riders. The park will then invoice the county for payment. The park’s name will be listed on the shuttle as a stop along the route.

Zach has worked with the sheriff’s department to create an authorized personnel placard which will allow a volunteer entry when park is closed, and the volunteer is signed up to work. It will be printed and distributed soon.

Boardwalks to the Liar’s bench are now repaired and the plaques will be mounted on their previous location. The same company will be rebuilding all boardwalks.

Parking lot counters have been investigated for use so the rangers do not have to manually count cars. They were deemed too expensive so a grant through the Tourist Development Council came through for cameras to be placed on the gatehouse, recording the number of vehicles in and out of the park. The system will be installed after season is over.???

Park Services Specialist - Lori reported that Yoga is cancelled till January. Not sure why but yoga on the beach may resume in January. Interest from other yoga businesses. Zach reported that there is a snag with business agreements per the state but that our yoga company, greenmonkey, was grandfathered.

Newspaper Articles: Kathy distributed two articles from the Naples Daily – one on yoga and one on beach erosion. Kathy had an article about the park published in the Naples Park Newsletter. Valerie will send one to the Vanderbilt HOA.

Todd gives members 15% discount for all rentals. As stated earlier this will be published on the new membership punch cards. Todd talked about the possibility of canoe/kayak tours, evening tours, sunset tours. He is very interested in working with us to provide whatever we want that his concession provides.

Kathy reminded us that we should think of goals for our organization to be presented at the December meeting and that board members are requested to donate something for the drawing. Next meetings and activities in 2017 are:

Membership Meeting: 11/13/17 10 am
Resident Artist Workshop 11/16/17 9am – 11am
Resident Artist Show 12/3/17 10am-3pm
Friends’ Board of Directors Meeting 12/4/17 10am
30th Anniversary Celebration 12/8/17 4:30 – 6:30 pm.

Adjournment 12:14 PM