

Friends of Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park

Board Meeting Minutes --- October 5, 2020

Board members present: Larry Beer, Eric Cosentino, Kathy Foster, Clarette Frank, Heidi Gagnon, Gabriella Miyamoto, Todd Richards and Valerie Thompson. **Park staff present:** Park Specialist Caitlin Brunk and Park Manager Terrance Torvund

President's Report:

- Kathy welcomed attendees to the first Zoom Board meeting.
- Kathy thanked Larry for keeping track of, preparing and submitting all the required reports and forms in a timely manner.

Vice President's Report:

Adopt a Turtle Program: Heidi reported on the status of donations and inventory of plush turtles and dolphins. Due to the COVID-19 shutdown, and the closing of the Ranger station for repairs, fewer plush animal (Adopt a Turtle Program) donations were received from mid-March through the summer months. Kathy thanked Alicia, Eric and Ursula for setting up the on-line donation & shipping system for plush animals using the Friends website and Pay Pal. Kathy asked Heidi to talk with Ursula about putting "Adopt a Turtle" donations information on the Friends Facebook page. Eric reported ten online donations to the program in August and none in September.

Facebook Taking Donations: Kathy will talk with Terrance about the possibility of putting a "donate" button (link) on the Friends Facebook page.

Secretary Report:

A quorum was established with all members in attendance.

Kathy moved to accept March 2, 2020 Board meeting minutes, Larry seconded. Minutes of March 2 Board meeting were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Financials: Year over year, total assets increased \$29,885 or 26%. Total income increased \$7,575 or 34% due mostly to turtle/dolphin donations. Total expenses increased \$1,390 or 15%. Overall, net income increased \$6,184 or 45%.

Insurance: The Auto-Owners Insurance policy for directors and officers' liability, the The Hartford policy for commercial general liability, and the Florida State Park Foundation membership came up for renewal. In reviewing the policies, we had duplicate coverage and cancelled the Auto-Owners Insurance and The Hartford policies for a total savings of \$1,077/year. The Florida State Park Foundation membership is \$100/year and provides \$3,000,000 in liability per policy period for directors and officers. It also provides commercial general liability and commercial crime coverage.

Audit Committee Report: Kathy requested Eric prepare a brief statement from the Audit Committee, stating the meeting date, persons on committee and the findings. The statement needs to be signed by all committee members. This document is placed in organization's required files.

Membership Chairperson's Report:

Current members: Gabriella reported that there are currently 174 members. Renewals: Renewals are frequent in the fall of the year and Gabriella will be sending out renewal reminders soon. Membership extensions of 2 months were granted to Friends memberships in the spring due to the Park shutdown. We have now returned to a 12-month membership. Gabriella asked that we encourage new and renewing memberships be completed by using the online Pay Pal system on the Friends website.

Park Manager's Report:

Administration: The Ranger Station is now open after closure due to needed repairs. The Park is currently experiencing an Internet connectivity problem.

State officials announced the Park budget would be cut by approximately 15%. The reduced budget will have an impact on the Park operations, particularly in the areas of maintenance and utilities.

Ranger Terry Nowak retired from the Park service in September.

Visitors Services: Park visitation continued to be high even though amenities, such as grills (32), picnic tables (98) were removed to enable social distancing in the Park. Rangers are not allowed to handle cash due to the pandemic and pavilion reservations and after hour passes are not permitted. Park meetings are limited to 10 attendees. The recent State's phase 3 opening does not change the Park's COVID-19 guidelines. All Park sponsored programs and Friends events have been cancelled.

Resource Management:

Caitlin reported on the recent sea turtle season:

- 2019: 53 turtle nests, 2020: 39 nests.
- 78 false crawls (higher than in 2019)
- 2,498 hatchlings
- 77 released out

All staff and volunteer Ursula received "Sea Turtle" training in order to be permitted in this area.

Volunteers are once again working in the Park after being restricted during the spring and summer due to the pandemic. Caitlin has 15 names on the current volunteer list and it is growing.

Exotics removal is lagging behind schedule.

Maintenance: Mark, Caitlin, Steve, Jenn and Terrance will meet to prioritize Park projects and work due to the budget cuts. Focus will be on upgrading and repairing areas 2 and 3. Barb Craig donated funds to rebuild a section of the boardwalk in area 3.

The officials in Tallahassee approved a budget for facilities improvements which include: Replacing showers, renovating bathhouse #3, replacing the boardwalks around the bathhouses 2 and 3 with Trex materials, and widening the Park entrance.

Committee Reports:

Park System's Birthday Party – cancelled

Seashells and Santa—cancelled

Wildlife and Wildlands Art Show – cancelled.

- Caitlin sent an email to 2020 artists and other interested artist to inform them of the cancellation and the dates for the 2022 show.
- Clarette raised a concern about the cancellation of park events due to the pandemic, particularly our Art Show fundraiser, and the effect it will have on the Friends budget. She suggested that possibly a letter could be sent to the state park services. No action was taken.

Children's Art Show – cancelled. Larry announced that due the educational and elementary school changes during the pandemic and uncertainty of COVID guidelines in February 2021 the committee felt it best to cancel the 2021 Show and plan for a Show in 2022.

Unfinished business:

- Dellora's Garden watering system has not been installed. John and Terrance are working to get this accomplished.
- John Finer is transplanting orchids in the Park. Terrance will investigate if the Friends could give orchids to individuals in return for donations.
- Thanks were expressed to Ingrid Twiefel and John Finer for tending the nursery plants and working with mulching and planting at the Park.
- No land or water cleanup days are planned for this year.
- Membership meeting: Due to restrictions and limited number of attendees at Park events, in person membership meetings for the near future will not be possible. News via "articles", reports and/or videos will be disseminated to members in lieu of meetings. Tentatively, the January Membership will be conducted via Zoom.

Upcoming Dates:

November 2: Board of Directors Meeting. 10 a.m. in Park Pavilion

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Thompson
Secretary

Approved: November 2, 2020