

**Friends of Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park
Board of Directors Meeting
April 8, 2024
Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park Maintenance Area**

Board Members Present:

Eric Cosentino, Skip Counselman, Kim Finer (via telephone), Donna Graham, Janice Kmetz and Valerie Thompson

Board Members Absent: all were in attendance

Park Staff in Attendance: Acting Manager Mark Nicoletti and PSS Bob Garcia

Others in Attendance: no other individuals attended

Meeting was called to order at 8:58 a.m. A quorum was established.

President's Report: Janice Kmetz

- Compliance request: Following submission of the Friends response letter concerning the compliance request from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, no further action has been taken. Donna Graham is following up with State officials.
- All Friends mail received at the Park is to be date stamped.
- Mark Nicoletti is Acting Park Manager following Terrance Torvund's resignation. Manager candidates will be interviewed soon. The Friends gifted Terrance with a framed collage of Park photos during his "going away" gathering.
- An official "construction zone" sign is now posted at the Park entrance.

Vice-President's Report: Kim Finer

- The new "Friends Newsletter" has been emailed to Friends members and is also available for reading on the Friends website. The next newsletter is scheduled to be published on July 1. Kim welcomes idea for future publications.
- The Arthrex Partnership meeting is scheduled to take place on April 16. Kim will be attending as the Board representative.
- The Friends of DWPSW will have an information table at the April 20 Conservancy of SW Florida's Earth Day event. Let Kim know if you can volunteer to join her at the table.

Secretary's Report: Valerie Thompson

Skip motioned to accept the minutes from the March 4, 2024 Board meeting, Eric seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Skip motioned to accept the minutes from the March 20, 2024 Board meeting, Eric seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: Eric Cosentino

Total assets were down 1.5%, or \$3,450.53 year-over-year for the period ending February 2024.

Direct public support was down 85% or \$3,161.56. Membership was down 155% or \$4,495.14. Total income was down 104% or \$8,224.04. Total expenses were \$1,132.38, \$4,097.43 less year over year. Overall, net income was \$6,743.51, down \$4,126.61 from the previous year.

Eric reported on the boat donation that has been offered to the Friends. Eric is coordinating this donation and researched the boat value by working with area boat brokers. Kim made a motion to authorized Eric to accept a bid that he deems appropriate. Donna seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Membership Report: Donna Graham

Current membership is 159. Donna has received positive feedback about the "Members Only Event" programs/activities.

Assistant Park Manager's Report: Mark Nicoletti

- The Construction sign has been installed at the Park entrance. As crews work, there will be restricted areas throughout the Park.
- Park Walk with John Finer will focus on open areas of the Park as construction occurs.
- Plans are to work on getting the sewer work completed in the areas off parking lots 1 & 2 before Sea Turtle season. Some lots restrictions will apply.
- Discussion about paving parking lot #3 and opening that area are taking place.
- Park drainage. Work has been completed in the parking lots. Grasses will be planted in the drainage areas between the road and the parking lots.
- Manager's House is being renovated.
- The Park staff will host a Volunteer Appreciation Lunch at the Park Manager's house on April 12.

Committee Reports

Budget Committee: Committee chair Eric Cosentino has distributed a revised budget to committee members for their review.

Old Business:

A. Pop-up Table Updates: Janice Kmetz and Kim Finer

Pop-up tables are scheduled for 2 times per month, weather permitting.

April 13. Pop-up/Beach Clean Up. Janice and Donna will be working with this event.

April 27. Pop-up/Beach Clean Up. Valerie and Kim will be working with this event.

B. New membership events: Donna Graham

- Shelling Excursion Update: 14 members attended
- Gopher Tortoise Event, April 10: Postponed for 2024, will be added to 2025 calendar and an educational Gopher Tortoise announcement will be put on the Friends Facebook page.
- Walk-in-the-Park with John Finer, April 23. PSS Bob volunteered to join John on the walk.
- Sip, Sand and Sunset, April 30. Donna highlighted the event, presented a budget for the event, said we have some donations and requested \$650.00 in Friends funds to cover expenses for the event. Donna made a motion to allow spending up to \$650.00 for the April 30 Sip, Sand and Sunset event expenses. Skip seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

C. Turtle Nest Update. Donna Graham

- Donna reported 39 nests have been adopted.
- Mark informed the Board about the logistics & requirements of working with the sea turtle nests. Teams of two will survey the Park beach early each morning. When two rangers are not available, trained & licensed volunteers will be scheduled. Mark will work with Bob to coordinate the volunteers.

New Business:

The Bonita Springs Shell Club will be making a donation to the Friends of DWSP.

There being no further business Skip made a motion for adjournment. Eric seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Upcoming dates:

April 12	Volunteer Appreciation Lunch, 12 noon - 2 p.m. at the Park
April 13	Pop-up and Members Beach Clean-up at the Park
April 20	Earth Day (Friends will have a display table at the Conservancy of SW Florida)
April 23	Walk-in-the-Park with John Finer
April 27	Pop-up and Members Beach Clean-up at the Park
April 30	Sip, Sand and Sunset Members Event, 6-8 p.m. at the Park
May 6	Friends of DWSP Board meeting at the Park 9 a.m.
July 1	Friends Newsletter published

Respectfully submitted by
Valerie Thompson, Secretary

Date approved: May 6, 2024