

Friends of Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park
May 6, 2024
Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park Maintenance Area

Board Members Present: Eric Cosentino, Kim Finer, Donna Graham, Janice Kmetz and Valerie Thompson

Board Members Absent: Skip Counselman,

Park Staff in Attendance: Acting Manager Mark Nicoletti

Others in Attendance: no other individuals attended

Meeting was called to order at 8:56 a.m. A quorum was established.

President's Report: Janice Kmetz

- The new Park Manager, Cody Peters, will begin working at the Park on June 6.
- The "Park Update" prepared by Assistant Park Manager Nicoletti and posted on social media helped answer questions about progress on Park post-hurricane work and renovations.

Vice-President's Report: Kim Finer

- Kim reported that she and Donna had a successful day at the Conservancy of S. W. Florida Earth Day event. Information about the Park and Friends group was shared. Park logo stickers and buttons were given away. Donations from the event totaled \$400.00. Board members recommended participating at this event in the future.
- Kim reported sending a thank you note to the Bonita Springs Shell Club for their donation.

Secretary's Report: Valerie Thompson

Donna motioned to accept the minutes from the April 8, 2024 Board meeting, Eric seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: Eric Cosentino

Year-over-year for the period ending March 31st, total assets increased to \$224,729.23, up \$17,314.19 or 7.7%. Direct public support was up \$3,364.93 or 30.9%. Membership was down \$5,274.81 or 77.7%. Total income was down \$3,740.17 from a year ago. Expenses were down \$20,377.78 and net income was up \$16,637.81 from a year ago.

Eric reported on the boat donation that has been offered to the Friends. The donation should be completed in a week or two.

Membership Report: Donna Graham

- Current membership is 177.
- Recommendation to include membership level information in the July 1 Friends newsletter.

Assistant Park Manager's Report: Mark Nicoletti

Staffing:

- New Park Manager will begin on June 6
- New OPS is Ryan Barnes

Maintenance:

- The Park Manager's and Assistant Park Manager's homes are receiving renovations: new interior doors, new roofs, and exterior paint. The Manager's home is also receiving interior painting. Next year, hurricane windows are scheduled to be installed.
- No word on the schedule for paving and planting in the the parking lot swales.
- No sea turtle nests identified yet.

Visitor Services

- Weekday traffic has slowed down
- New buoys have been installed
- Junior Ranger Jamboree is scheduled for May 18 at Myakka S.P. Three Jr. Ranger programs will be held at Delnor-Wiggins this summer.

Old Business:Upcoming events:

- Pop-up on the Beach — May 11, 8 - 11 a.m. (Last one of the season). Janice
- Beach Clean-ups (Meet in Parking Lot #1)
 - Monday, May 13, 8 a.m.
 - Tuesday, May 28, 8 a.m.

New membership events: Donna Graham

- Walk-in-the-Park with John Finer, April 23. 13 participants enjoyed discovering the flora of the Park and requested more similar programs.
- Sip, Sand and Sunset, April 30. The successful event had glowing reviews! Through generous “in-kind” donations, the event came in under budget.

Turtle Nest Udate: Donna Graham

- Donna reported 46 nests have been adopted. It was suggested an October event be held for Turtle Nest Adopters to distribute certificates, meet and greet and say thank you.
- Nest adoptions will take place throughout the season this year.

Compliance request: Following submission of the Friends response letter concerning the compliance request from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the situation has been resolved and approved. The Friends “non-profit” status stands. No penalties were imposed.

New Business:

- The Bonita Springs Shell Club, which made a donation to the Friends, will be meeting with Janice on the beach Thursday, June 9, area #2 for a Park tour.
- Mark, Kim and John Finer and the District biologists have met to discuss the “Mobile Plant Propagation” grant, requirements, regulations, etc. The \$10,000 grant is funded by the State Park Foundation.
- Friends Newsletter: next edition is July 1. Send Kim information you think should be included.
- Summer Camp at the Park starts June 3 and goes through the first week in August. The Camp will be set up on the boat ramp parking lot. Same organizer as previous years.
- Turtle Nesting Information Banner: Janice requested a banner to be placed at the entrance to the Park. She is working with Cecil’s Printing to have a banner produced. Janice will work with Park staff to have the banner displayed.
- Donna proposed two additions/changes to the “Friends of Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park Bylaws”, Article VI and Article VII Board of Directors section:
 - Article VI, Section 1: Requirement and Responsibilities: To become a member of the Board of Directors a nominee must have been an active member of the Friends of Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park for a period of one (1) year prior to being nominated.
 - Article VII, Section 1: Election of Officers: To be elected as an officer of the Board of Directors, a director must serve the first year of the 3-year term, with exception: when vacancy(ies) cannot be filled because no board member meets the aforementioned requirement. Following discussion, Valerie made a motion to accept the changes to the Bylaws as stated by Donna (see above); Kim seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Donna will update the Bylaws.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

Upcoming dates:

May 11: Pop-up on the beach: 8-11 a.m.
May 13: Beach Clean-up: 8 a.m. parking lot #1
May 28: Beach Clean-up: 8 a.m. parking lot #1
June 16: World Sea Turtle Day
July 1: Friends Newsletter published
Sept. 9: Friends Board of Directors meeting, 9 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Valerie Thompson, Secretary

Date approved: *September 9, 2024*