

Minutes of the CSO meeting—October 14, 2013

Meeting opened at 10:05 AM

33 Members and 5 board members in attendance

Reading and Approval from the April 2013 membership meeting—Re-read minutes from last formal meeting. —Minutes stand as read.

Reports from officers and staff:

President—Welcome to 8 new members present—no formal meeting since April

Comments—President visited national parks, went to 14 national parks. In all of the parks, there is so much history as to why parks are set aside. Our park, Del-Nor Wiggins gave the money to put aside to the park, huge in what it has done for the region.

Don Forgione announced Florida State Parks 3rd gold medal from the American Academy of Park and State Recreation

Vice President—out of town

Treasurer—financial report

Park Manager—Concession has new name; it's up on the web site.

New things since May---

They finished the dredging of the pass. Lots of sand has filled in on both sides. Most erosion on Barefoot Beach side.

Computers upgraded with Office 2010. Ready to migrate emails

New tile put in the houses where there has been vinyl for several years.

Changes in staff members:

Administrative asst. park ranger position, Laura Packer. Julie went to DEP office.

Cheryl Metzger came from Rookery Bay and Fish and Wildlife position, replaced Chris Davisson who went to Myakka River State Park.

New OPS, Logan Kraus

Labor Day, main water line broke, got it fixed in time for holiday. We noticed we have problems with lift station piping. Working on getting that corrected.

Fleet exercise, downsized number of vehicles state-wide, lost our Chevy S-10. More volunteers, less vehicles..

Raised price to 89k to do all of the engineering for all of the existing board walks and the ramps around each bath house in the park. State is paying for the engineering, drawing, and permits. Estimated at \$200 per square foot.

350k for new ranger station, promised, in the current budget. Looked at 2 places, back in the parking lot with the boat ramp. Wanted to wait until after hurricane season, because that can divert the funds. If you move to east, just put in road and move the road. Because of where the setback line is. Engineers will have to decide; probably end up back in the boat launch area as an administrative office.

Got shutter for the ranger station, but no hurricanes!!!!

Donna Young and Mike Odum at ranger academy for the next 10 days.

Donna has been very busy coordinating the Beach Stewards program, Friends at different events, Golisano Children's museum, Costco membership, Boo at the Zoo is coming up.

Students are back from summer from FGCU.

Compelled all the permitting to do the partnership for FGCU to do study of gopher tortoises, started October 4th. They are being radio tracked. Burrows being used, going to learn where they go. A year's study. Doing DNA sampling to look at population. At one time, the tortoises were decimated. They were re introduced; curious to see how many came from Barefoot Beach (now operated by the county.)

Had a successful summer camp from June through middle of August. Kids from 5-14. . It is still being operated on the weekends. Concession working with Valla Binjasa....doing paddle board yoga.

Jason Baumgartner did the kids camp, permit with us.

Stats of loggerhead nests? 30 nests, 28 to date have hatched. One of the most successful summers because we had no tropical storms or hurricanes wash them out. We lost 1 or 2 nests because of extreme high tides.

Friends doing for the next couple of months.

Boo at the Zoo, October 19th. We are trying to put something besides candy. If you are interested in assembling magnets using shells.

Veteran's Day special (November 11)...next meeting. Let me know if you are a veteran. First hand conversation and chats with veterans.

Phil Nye had a field trip planned to Ding Darling, but govt. shutdown, maybe Corkscrew or Mound Key. It's in Estero Bay.

Next year, looking to moving nature festival in November 2014. The State Parks of Florida are encouraging us to doing resident population events in Shoulder Season. Lover's Key has moved theirs to December successfully. We'll need volunteers

December 9, 2013—Holiday party, Turkey or ham in smoker....just fun.

December 13, 2013—Annual meeting

January 18, 2014—Art show, excellent fund raiser for the park.

February 22, 2014—Children's Art Show—We will model after Gamble Plantation's children's art competitions. The director shared all information with us. They call it a competition and it has a \$1400 budget to implement. This is a Saturday show for them. There are 2 age groups of art that are judged (with a jury of artists), K-2 and 3-5. On the day of the event, there is a people's choice judging and folks can return on Sunday.

This Friday at 1, October 18, we will meet to begin to organize this show.

Park Staff had planned an event for Halloween, but have now scrapped ideas for that. We are working to put together an event with Naples Sports shop for stand up paddle boarding for next October. This has been a popular activity for the park.

We do pay a publicist to help ensure that we are on TV, and in the paper

Introduce new members

Stephanie Thalmeyer , Carol (liaison with United Arts Council); also trained in the turtle program for the school. Lois Duncan and Dwight Duncan....pretty hand with hammer and nails. Teresa Galante. Ira Rubenstein, Florida naturalist, first year, beach steward, Susan Zimmerman, also work at the Wildlife Conservancy Hospital, Bob Hanna, Leslie Burgess, also a volunteer at Corkscrew and Diane Stefano
Adjourned at 11 :10 AM

Ann Petrillo

Secretary

Speaker: Maureen Sullivan-Hartung has written a book Hidden History of Everglades City.

Beer worms, square grouper and Indians .. It was a very interesting talk and much information of the on goings of Everglades City. She also sold her books and autographed them.