

Friends of Delnor - Wiggins Pass State Park
Board Meeting Minutes: March 7, 2016
Monday 10 AM - Surf Colony Party Room

Board members present: Marcia Byrd, Kathy Foster, Joe Gagnier, Gabriella Miyamoto, Phil Nye, Ann Petrillo, Kathe Rasch, Valerie Thompson

Board members absent: Larry Beer

Staff present: Bob Steiger

Proceedings:

A quorum was established and the meeting was called to order at 10:07 AM by Ann Petrillo, President. The February minutes were approved as corrected.

Reports of Officers:

President - Given that we did not vote for offices after the annual meeting in January and that we were installed in February with no changes, Ann suggested that we stay in our current offices till the annual meeting in 2017.

Treasurer –Kathe gave a report on Children’s Art Show expenses and income. T-shirt sales netted \$600, Popcorn sales - \$84, and donations came in at \$62. She reported that the children’s t-shirts, all sizes, sold well. Expenses included publicity, banner, postage, certificates, cash awards, and ribbons totaling less than \$1,000 therefore all was covered by the generous donation of \$1,000.

Park Manager – Bob discussed the three day trial conducted to emulate a pay kiosk in parking lots, as requested by Collier County Sheriff’s Department. The days were Wednesday through Friday during what is usually a busy time of year. This was a “Pay as You Leave” system and the staff was asked to allow up to 100 cars in the park even if capacity had been reached. The results of the trial are inconclusive since the park was not full on Wednesday or Friday and on Thursday only 20 cars entered after capacity had been reached. So far the best solution for the park has been opening up two lanes during busy times and collecting the fees upon entering. Bob has a meeting with Valinda Subic to discuss these issues.

The ADA compliance updates are coming along in Area 1 at the cost of \$325,000. A water line was broken from some construction of pilings but has been repaired.

Officer Brian Berringer, FWC, has discussed with Bob the need for more security. Bob sent the board a memo regarding one type of security camera. It was suggested that the cameras be posted on the ranger stations to photo license plates and drivers. The board wanted more justification for said cameras and asked Bob to find out what other parks have it. Funding the cameras will be tabled until more information is available.

Bob recommended another possible project for the Friends to fund – an interpretive panel on gopher tortoises, most likely posted in Area 5. He will investigate the cost and we will see if Walmart could co-fund the project.

Beach erosion is still affecting Area 5 especially. The uprooted trees and areas where the surge on January 17th pushed water and sand up into picnic areas was discussed. The consensus of the staff is that it is best to let nature take its course, so no improvements will be made at this time. Bob is going to check with a state level official to see how tourism has been affected.

A suggestion was made that signs along the pass be posted to state that no grills are allowed on the beach. Recently one board member saw a boat moored along the pass and a charcoal fire on the beach near this boat.

Park Specialist – Lori had the day off and there was no report.

Reports of Committees:

Art Show – The Art Show Committee consisting of Alliene Liden, Bob Steiger, Kathy Foster, Larry Beer, Lori HeathThorn and Valerie Thompson held a follow up meeting and made recommendations for 2017.

The committee made the following decisions/suggestions:

Keep registration fee at \$50. Use this early income for publicity.

Continue music in some form. Keep the raffle. Consider extending the time to 5 PM.

Secure a food vendor contract. Add picnic tables to the eating area.

Keep looking for new artists. Board members were asked to suggest potential new artists.

Investigate a shuttle service from some remote parking area. Look into Granada parking lot.

Continue to introduce the resident artist at the December meeting.

Children's Art show – Marcia thanked Kathe, Lori, and Bob for all their support. She thanked the judges for their efforts. She thanked her husband, Gene, and Phil for getting the rabbit cloth installed over two days due to a big party in the pavilion on Friday night when they had planned to get it done. She thanked Ann, the popcorn lady and Larry, the banner guy. Marcia gave an overview of the process, the timeline, and the outcome. Seven schools participated, 130 artworks were displayed, eleven awards were given each with a cash benefit to the school for art supplies. Each teacher who participated received \$25 for their school. All participants received a certificate and winners received an additional one. Kathe estimated that over 50% of the families attended and that the largest crowds came on Sunday. Both Kathe and Marcia believe that attendance has been greatly improved with free family gate passes being issued to each student who participates. Apparel and popcorn sold well. Teachers and parents made very positive comments about the value of the event. Suggestions from the board were to hold the event on only one day and to consider having more grade level categories when more schools participate. The committee will consider these suggestions. The 2017 Children's Art Show will be held the last weekend in February – 25th & 26th.

Membership – Gabriella, Kathy, and Marcia met to work on clarifications for Corporate and Patron/Lifetime memberships. Marcia researched the state website under Friends Groups and printed out a number of other CSOs' membership categories which were used in creating our lists of benefits. Gabriella presented the recommendations that were made at this meeting. The Board made a few changes but overall the clarification was accepted. An insert with this new information will be printed to go inside of our brochure.

Unfinished Business:

Coastal Forum – Kathe will oversee the March 15th (7PM) Coastal Forum. It was decided to sell apparel again. Alliene Liden has been managing the 50/50 or raffle. A few additional volunteers are needed and members are encouraged to attend. The talk will be on Restoring Reefs in the Estuary. There is one more Forum in April during the day.

Field trip – Our Field Trip to The Barnacle Historic Park is March 8. Meet at the boat ramp at 8 AM and bring a lunch. The trip will take about 2 hours 15 minutes.

Shirts for beach stewards – Bob can get discounted Columbia shirts for the beach stewards. The board needs to know quantity needed, sizes, and the approved printing. Beach stewards have paid for their shirts in the past. The board considered covering some cost of the shirt based on membership of stewards.

PR information from Sue Huff – Marcia has requested the results of Sue Huff's efforts regarding the publicity from the Children's Art Show.

New Business:

Development and approval of budget-Kathe guided the board through each category on the proposed budget, giving suggestions and soliciting input. Considerable time was spent on this development process. A finalized budget is forthcoming so we did not vote to approve a budget at this time.

Picnic – The last membership meeting of the year is on April 11th at 11 AM. Kathy will purchase food and supplies, Ann will get a cake from Publix, and Gene Byrd will grill the meat. There will be no formal meeting. Marcia will develop a 20 questions about the park list and folks will get prizes for answering the most correctly.

Next board meeting is April 4, 2016 at 10 AM in the Surf Colony Party Room.

Adjournment : 1:04 PM

Respectfully submitted, Marcia Byrd, Secretary

Date Approved _____