

MINUTES of the Friends of Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park
Membership Meeting – October 13, 2014

The 50/50 was not conducted. There were about 15 members in attendance.

Call to order: The Membership Meeting of the Friends of Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park was held in the CSO Room at Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park, Naples Florida on October 13, 2014. The meeting convened at 10 AM by Phil Nye, acting president, with Marcia Byrd as secretary. A quorum was established.

Board Members in attendance: Marcia Byrd, Phil Nye, and Robert Steiger **Absent were:** Larry Beer, Carol Belfiori, Tom Belfiori, Joe Gagnier, Elsie Morgan, Ann Petrillo, and Kathe Rasch. The minutes of the April 14, 2014 meeting were approved as read.

Officers' reports:

President: Phil Nye thanked people for attending

Vice Pres: no report

Treasurer: no report

Park Mgr: Bob introduced Lori HeathThorn, new Park Services Specialist, and gave the names of the new full time rangers: Rosa Simone, Amanda Adams, Dave Sidars. New OPS ranger: Elan Weisz. New OPS toll collectors: Kimberly Keohane and Susan Lindner. He reported on the work in the park. Work has been done at the bath houses to get ready for season. The park renewed a permit with Dr. Phil Allman, who has managed the gopher tortoise study. He received a grant to install another 5 antennas on gopher tortoises. Student, Chris Tesmer, is doing programs about the gopher tortoises on Tues mornings at 9:30 AM. Ask at gate to find out where he is located if you are interested in his talk. The ATV died because the frame rusted in half. Bob thanked the Friends for giving \$3000 toward a new ATV. The state paid the rest and a new ATV is on the way. September attendance was off 50% due to rain. Bob gave the rationale for moving the Nature Festival to November. Basically the State wants more events to be held in the shoulder months. The park continues to work with the county which compiled the data from the survey at the beach, conducted Dec – April of 2014. The outcome is that there will be no parking garage. We are keeping things the same. The pump at lift station #2 blew up this summer and it cost over \$5,000 to replace it. Major work projects are underway to rebuild boardwalks and ramps to restrooms, making them ADA compliant. The entire cost is estimated at \$700,000. Included in that is the initial \$325,000 for boardwalk removal and rebuilding. Bob reported that the ramps are designed separate from the bath houses. The Administration office renovations which were to have been started in July have not begun. The newest plan is to connect the two buildings in an - L shaped configuration. The garage area next to the breakout room will be the location of the new offices. Bob introduced our new resident artist for 2014, Damaris Gonzalez, who was very pleased to be selected. Bob reported that 2014 was the best sea turtle year ever – 42 nests, 35 false crawls at our park and a record year all across the county.

Park Svc. Spclst: Lori gave a brief bio. She was born in Pennsylvania and lived in the West Palm Beach area most recently. She worked for Palm Beach County nature centers, moved here in July, and was happy to find the job here at Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park.

Lori asked members to sign the sheets for meeting attendance, the Nature Festival, and for joining a committee. She spoke about our Outreach programs. She will need volunteers and Friends for upcoming events and

programs – Nature Festival, Art Show, and the Children’s Art Show. Annual training for volunteers was mentioned in the newsletter sent out by Lori. Every year volunteers have to go through training and sign a form. Alicia will set up the required video on You-Tube so that it can be viewed from home using the website. Volunteers can also come to the park to view the video.

Contact Lori about the Beach Steward program. There is training and a uniform

Lori asked the new rangers to send her bios which she read. Rosa Simone is from New York, was a volunteer, intern, OPS, and now a ranger. Dave Sidars, from West Virginia, worked at National Parks around the country, including Everglades NP. Amanda Adams graduated from FGCU, worked for Americore, worked in Hawaii and returned to Florida.

Lori has updated the display board with new photos and a new trifold board. She mentioned that Carol asked that we pay dues in November, not at this meeting.

New members, Bill and Jenny Sjostrom, introduced themselves.

Committee Reports: None. Sign up for membership committee.

Unfinished business: Membership brochure update – still not done.

New Business:

Adjournment: 10:48 AM.

Following the meeting, Damaris showed photos of some of her artwork.

Respectfully submitted,
Marcia Byrd, secretary
Friends of Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park

Date of Approval 11.10.14