

**Minutes of the Friends of Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park Membership
Meeting – February 11, 2019**

Board members present: Milagros Dougan, Kathy Foster, Heidi Gagnon, Phil Nye, Todd Richards and Valerie Thompson **Board members Absent:** Gabriella Miyamoto and Larry Beer **Park staff present:** Terrance Torvund and Mireille Gruppo

Guest Speaker Henry Gonzalez, Park Service Specialist from Collier Seminole State Park, provided an interesting look at the building of the Tamiami Trail. His presentation included information about key developers, geographic locations, work conditions and historical progression of the Trail development. Considering the harsh living conditions and hard labor, the building of the Trail, which opened in April 1928, was quite an accomplishment. Ranger Gonzalez described the Walking Dredge that is on display at Collier-Seminole State Park.

Business meeting: The meeting was called to order at 10:50 a.m. and a quorum was established.

President: Kathy welcomed everyone and introduced Michael Brown, the new Park resident volunteer. Kathy distributed an Amazon Smile information flyer prepared by Mireille and reminded members that by using the AmazonSmile website, .5 % of their order amounts are directed to the Park. She encouraged members to choose “Supporters of Del-Nor Wiggins Park inc” as their nonprofit selection. Kathy Introduced Heidi Gagnon as the Friends new Vice President and announced there is one vacancy on the nine-member Board. She encouraged interested members to apply for the vacant seat.

Vice President: No report

Secretary: Todd moved for approval of the minutes from the Jan. 14 meeting, Heidi Gagnon seconded. The minutes, as written, were unanimously approved.

Treasurer: Kathy shared the Treasurer’s Report Milagros prepared: We had a good performance last year with net income of \$6,850 exceeding budget because of higher donations and memberships. Kathy thanked the membership chair for her work and Rangers for selling memberships at the gatehouse. Money for Friends membership goes directly to the Friends to support the Park. Our investments total \$101,783. Our annual audit was completed per our *Financial Policy* and all was found to be in order. Committee members were Gabriella, Valerie and Terrance. Audit report was approved and passed unanimously at the February Board meeting. We have sold out of turtles and more are on order.

There is a three-week backlog on orders from our supplier. Out of the \$20.00 donation per turtle, \$5.00 goes to the Sea Turtle Preservation Project; the remainder goes into the Friends operating budget. To date \$810 is available to the Park for sea turtle projects as a direct result of these sales. Kathy thanked Todd for initiating this successful fundraising project.

Park Manager's Report: *Administration:* The open Ranger position candidate has been selected. Two part-time OPS personnel positions are open. Filling these positions would bring the park to full staffing. *Visitor Services:* The State is moving forward with entrance enhancements. Two incoming lanes will be developed to help alleviate traffic congestion on Bluebill Avenue during peak hours. Terrance reported 150 visitors used the Beach Bus in December. The numbers of Park visitors in January 2019 showed an increase of 20,000 over January 2018; to date, February 2019 numbers are up 5,000 over the previous year. A "Stump the Ranger" program is being developed to provide interactions between Rangers and visitors and increase knowledge of the Park. *Maintenance:* Ranger Terry finished the Ranger break room renovations. The Ranger station paint job is awaiting equipment from Myakka River State Park. The Park staff is facing expenses for maintenance of two lift stations. *Protection/Resource Management:* Terrance has discussed the raccoon issues with the District Biologist, solutions were considered to the problem and steps will be taken to deal with this situation. Mireille reported that out of the 61 sea turtles nests identified in the Park during the 2018 season, raccoons attacked 40.

Membership: Kathy reported there are 160 memberships.

New Business: Children's Art Show, February 23 & 24. Committee Chair Marcia Byrd invited members to sign-up to help at the two-day event. Volunteers are needed throughout both days and various work shifts are being scheduled. Nine schools are participating in the Show and there may be as many as 225 pieces of artwork entered. Judging will take place on Saturday and ribbons will be awarded. The Park shuttle will be used within the Park to transport visitors to the pavilion for the Show.

Old business: We are awaiting an additional order of plush turtles, they are back ordered.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Valerie Thompson

Approved: October 14, 2019