

Minutes of the Friends of Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park  
Membership Meeting – January 13, 2020

Board members present: Larry Beer, Clarette Frank, Gabriella Miyamoto, Kathy Foster, Phil Nye, and Todd Richards. Board members absent: Heidi Gagnon and Eric Cosentino  
Park staff: Caitlin Brunk, Stephen Pindel and Terrance Torvund  
A quorum was established.

**Guest Speaker:** Guest speaker, 2020 DWPSP Resident Artist Gloria Skrobacki shared an interesting presentation about her artwork. She provided a step-by-step explanation of the techniques she uses to create her works of art.

**Business Meeting:** Board President Kathy Foster called the business meeting to order.

**President:**

- President Kathy Foster announced four recent donations to the Friends and thanked the following donors:
  1. Susan and Dave Darrahs donated \$200.00.
  2. Jackie Olsen donated her mother's extensive shell collection.
  3. The Dellora and Lester Norris Foundation donated \$10,000 to be used for Dellora's Garden and provide funds for other park needs. Mrs. Gaynor and the Foundation have been thanked.
  4. Suncoast Credit Union donated \$500.00 from their "Pay It Forward" program. In addition to the Golden Gate Branch participating in the fall park cleanup, the Credit Union chose the Friends to be the recipient of monies awarded from a competition among the statewide Suncoast locations. Manager Dick Olds and Assistant Manager Anna Avilla presented the Friends with the check. Mr. Olds explained the services provided by the Credit Union.
- Kathy Thanked Richie Twiefel for his participation in the Seashells and Santa event and presented him with a framed Santa photo.
- Terrance presented a slide presentation highlighting the Friends activities in 2019.

**Vice President:**

- Kathy announced that dolphins have been added to the stuffed animal inventory. Both turtles and dolphins are popular and donations are steady.
- Kathy congratulated Ranger James Aldridge who took in the most Adopt a Turtle donations during the last 3-month period, he was awarded a \$25.00 gift card.
- A portion of the donations directed to the turtle preservation project will be used to cover a portion of the cost of a new UTV.
- Clarette will be exploring the "Adopt a Sea Turtle Nest" project as a way to bring in funds for additional turtle protection and preservation.

**Secretary:**

The minutes from the November 11, 2019 Membership Meeting were approved with Clarette making the motion for approval, Richie seconding and approval was by a unanimous vote.

**Treasurer:**

Kathy thanked Milagros for her years of service as Treasurer of the Friends and shared that Eeric Cosentino is now the Friends Treasurer. Eric submitted the following information:

- Year over year, from November 2018 to November 2019, total assets increased by \$21,831.88 to \$117,707.01, an 18.5% increase. Membership dues increased by 26.4%, gate increased by 1.8%, and individual/business contributions and turtle donation increased by 74% mostly due to turtle donations.

- Special events income from Wildlife & Wildlands Art Show, Nature Fest, and the Children's Art Show decreased 7.3% year over year.
- Total expenses decreased 18.2% and net income increased by 72.5% year over year.

### **Park Manager Report:**

Administration: Terrance reported that the Annual review by the District Chief was completed and there were 57 items on the work list. The new Bureau Chief will be visiting the park more often and reaffirmed a commitment to the Park. DWPSP is third in the district in visitation. Statistics for 2019: visitation up 12%; revenue increased 12% over the previous year..

Annual pass sales at the Park is strong: 2,600 passes were sold in 2019. DWPSP is number 2 in the state behind Honeymoon Island in this area.

Visitors' Services: The Beach Bus will begin service on January 17 and run Friday through Monday through April 27. Interpretative programs will be held at 9:30 a.m. on Thursdays through April. Inquire at the gatehouse about location.

Resource Management: The state provided \$4,700.00 for the purchase of a new park UTV; additional funds will come from the turtle preservation "Adopt a Turtle" program and the Friends general funds.

Maintenance: Park Specialist Stephen Pindel reported on maintenance activities. Three major projects are underway: Three boardwalks have been removed and if time permits, one more will be removed before the permit expires in April. A major focus of maintenance this winter will be the bathhouses. The men's sides of bathhouses 3 and 6 are being renovated and the structures are being painted. Boys Scouts have assisted, and in some cases, lead maintenance projects during the year; new trash and recycle bins, boardwalks and the steps west of the Ranger Station were all Scout projects.

### **Membership Report:**

Gabriella reported we currently have 180 members; forty-five memberships are up for renewal this month. Thanks to Terrance and the Rangers who have been selling memberships at the gatehouse. Gabriella also thanked Ursula for posting Friends membership information on the Friends Facebook page.

### **Committee Reports:**

Nominating Committee: Committee Chair Todd Richards presided over the election of three Board members. The slate included Gabriella Miyamoto, Eric Cosentino and Clarette Frank. No additional nominations were made from the floor. Richie Twiefel moved to accept the slate, Larry Beer seconded. Members attending voted unanimously to approve the slate.

Art Show: The Wildlife and Wildlands Art Show will be January 18, from 9am-4pm. Caitlin passed around a "sign-up" sheet for volunteers. The committee is seeking volunteers to chair the committee. If members are interested, please contact Kathy or Valerie.

Children's Art Show: This show will be held Sat. & Sun. Feb. 22, 10-4pm and Feb. 23, 2-6pm. Marcia announced there are currently 7 schools registered to participate. Marcia explained the benefits of the event and said the show is entirely funded through an anonymous donation. The Beach Bus will take visitor to area #5 during the show. Volunteers are needed to help at the show and on the Friday prior. Please contact Marcia if interested.

**Unfinished Business:** John Finer provided an update on three garden areas in the Park: the butterfly garden, entrance plantings and Dellora's Garden. The need for an irrigation system in Dellora's Garden was explained, a watering system will be explored. John and Ingrid Twiefel were thanked for their work with maintaining the Park's gardens.

**Old Business:** Seashells & Santa event was a success. Pathways Early Education of Immokalee was the recipient of the gift donations. Barb Craig was thanked for chairing the event.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Valerie Thompson

**Approved:** March 9, 2020