

**Friends of Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park
Membership Meeting Minutes – Pavilion DWPSP
January 10, 2022**

Board members in attendance: Larry Beer, Barbara Craig, Kathy Foster, Ursula Gibbons, Gabriella Miyamoto and Valerie Thompson. **Absent:** Eric Cosentino, Heidi Gagnon and Phil Nye. **Park Staff in attendance:** David Baniak and Terrance Torvund. A quorum was established.

President Kathy Foster called the Annual Membership Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Kathy introduced Linda Schloss, the Delnor-Wiggins Pass S. P. Resident Artist. Linda explained her art techniques and shared a few of her favorite paintings.

President's Report: Kathy provided the "General Financial Accounting" as of the end of November: The November 30, 2020 – November 30, 2021 year over year comparative balance financials showed assets were up by \$27,751.68. (16.3%) The increase is due largely to more direct public support through critter donations, gate donations and the Adopt-a-Nest project support. Income was up 52%, year over year. 2021 expenditures of \$44,984.81 were greater than the \$12,383.61 expense figure for 2020. The increase in expenses is attributed largely to the purchase of new equipment for the Park.

Vice-President's Report: In Heidi's absence, Kathy reported that donations for the critters are successful. Due to the supply chain slowing delivery of orders, only a few turtles and alligators are in the inventory.

Secretary's Report: The minutes from the December membership meeting were read. A motion to approve was made and seconded, unanimous approval.

Treasurer's Report: In addition to the Presidents "Financial Accounting" report, it was noted that an Annual Audit Committee has been appointed, Ursula, Larry and Terrance (or Mark) will meet and report back to the Board at the February Board meeting.

Park Manager's Report:

Administration: DWPSP PSS Steven Pindal will be moving to work at the District Office in the position of Design and Construction Consultant, leaving the Park at the end of January. BJ Givens will be the new Bureau Chief of our District:

Visitor's Services: Terrance noted the increase in visitors:

Christmas Day 2021: 4,037

Christmas Day 2020: 1,173 (riptides and red tide present)

Christmas Day 2019: 2,578

New Year's Day 2022: 3,695

New Year's Day 2021: 3,400

Also noted: 540 Annual Passes were sold in December 2021.

Interpretation: Park staff is focusing on the upcoming Art Show. Thank you to David Baniak for his work on this event.

Resource Management: Nature Trail: Terrance recognized Rangers Pindal and Baniak for their work on the Trail. He also acknowledged and expressed appreciation for the \$15,000 donation from the Fortune Foundation that is being applied to the trail project. Terrance showed the new informational signs that will be installed on the new Nature Trail kiosk. A donation from the Craig family went toward funding these panels. He also talked about and shared the “gopher tortoise” warning sign, which he hopes to be able to have installed by the end of January. The County will begin dredging Wiggins Pass in the next couple weeks and sand from the dredging will be placed at the north end of the park to expand the beach area. The operation will be 24 hours, 7 days a week and sections of the beach will be closed during the dredging.

Maintenance: Work on the Nature Trail continues. If weather holds, Terrance hopes it will be framed by the end of January. Area #3 improvements are scheduled to start in the summer: These improvements include: building #3 renovations, new showers and boardwalk. The project has finished the engineering phase. The cost to complete is \$222,000.00. Terrance requested \$150,000.00 from the State for the engineering and permitting.

Election of Board Members: Three Board positions were open for this election. Candidates included: Larry Beer, Kim Finer, Heidi Gagnon and Donna Wallin. Each candidate gave a brief introduction (In her absence, Heidi’s written introduction was shared). Ursula distributed the ballots. After tabulation of votes, the elected Board members for three-year terms are: Kim Finer, Heidi Gagon and Donna Wallin. Kathy encouraged Larry to remain active with the Friends in an advisory capacity.

Membership Chairperson: Gabriella reported the total number of memberships is around 230. She explained the membership process and encouraged those in attendance to renew their memberships when they are due. Gabriella thanked Kathy, Ursula and the rangers for their work, which has resulted in increased memberships.

Committee Reports:

Art Show: Plans are underway for the upcoming show. Special thanks to PSS Baniak and the Ranger team for their work on the show. 24 Artists are registered for the January 15 Show. Friends who wish to volunteer at the show are advised to contact PSS David Baniak.

Seashells and Santa: Kathy thanked Barb Craig for her leadership and work with the Seashells and Santa event. Kathy shared information about the toy drive recipient, Pathways Early Education Center located in Immokalee, FL.

Children’s Art Show: Four schools are registered; more are expected to enter. Prizes are awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place, rangers pick and visitors’ favorite.

Monetary awards are presented to the art program at each winner’s school.

Meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Upcoming Dates:

January 15, 2022 Art Show

February 26 and 27 Children’s Art Show

Respectfully submitted by Valerie Thompson

Approved: February 14, 2022