

Friends of Delnor - Wiggins Pass State Park
Board Meeting Minutes: January 4, 2016
Monday 10 AM - Surf Colony Party Room

Board members present: Larry Beer, Marcia Byrd, Kathy Foster, Joe Gagnier, Gabriella Miyamoto, Phil Nye, Ann Petrillo, Valerie Thompson.

Board members absent: Kathe Rasch

Staff present: Lori Heath Thorn and Bob Steiger

Proceedings:

A quorum was established and the meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM by Ann Petrillo, President. The December minutes were approved.

Reports of Officers:

President - Ann completed the list of accomplishments for 2015. There was one outreach at the Everblades Hockey game on December 12, State Park Recognition Night. Our park was represented by Valerie and Jay Thompson along with Bob Steiger. Five parks were there and folks seemed interested in learning about our parks. Pencils with our logo and Friends website were handed out.

Treasurer – Kathe sent a report via email. Some questions arose as to whether it was a quarterly report since income included October and November. Kathe will clarify this at the next meeting. Some members requested a monthly report from the accountants.

Park Manager – Bob called Valinda Subic to get approval for the Coastal Forums. The times were determined as follows:

January 12: Sunset is at 5:55 PM. Meeting time – 6:30 PM, **February 9:** Sunset is at 6:15 PM. Meeting time – 6:45 PM, **March 15:** Sunset is at 6:36 PM. Meeting time 7:00 PM. At these meetings the entry will be free since it is after sunset. **April 12:** Afternoon meeting. Meeting time 3:00 PM. Folks will need to pay \$6 per vehicle with up to 8 people, \$4 per vehicle with only one person, and \$2 for walk-ins or bike-ins.

Bob discussed the new methods of entry tested in December to alleviate congestion at the park entrance. The two-lane method worked well. The payment upon exiting was not desirable due to only one lane collecting fees and many folks wanting to leave at the same time. At one time there were 230 cars in line to leave. Both eliminated congestion at the entrance but the second method caused a large backup of traffic within the park.

Concerns about the loss of beach were raised and several members of the board plan to write a letter registering their concerns.

Bob is working with the manager at the Barnacle Historic State Park to set up a Friends' field trip there in March.

New news about the administration building to be built is that there will be no second story, the CSO room will be knocked down, and the same footprint will be used for the new structures.

Park Specialist – Lori will provide the yoga instructors additional gate passes as needed. Lori received many compliments on the Nature Fest (new name). About twice as many people attended the event as compared to the year before. Publicity may have to be increased and perhaps an earlier date would increase attendance. The event is slated for the "shoulder" months.

The Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon will be held again at Carrabbas at 11 AM, date to be determined. The board voted in favor of paying for the luncheon.

Reports of Committees:

Art Show – Valerie reported that there are 18 artists signed up with 3 outstanding. The categories are: 1 ceramics, 6 painting, 2 glass, 2 jewelry, 1 palm frond, 6 photographers. 4 are new, 3 possibly more will follow. Larry and Lori put together a color-coded set up chart. New banner cost \$150. Signs will be put outside the park before the bridge, on Gulf Shore and on the beach.

The committee is trying to do different things to promote the event including getting a spot on WINK TV. They are looking into different media outlets. Kathy is doing some other things with Naples Daily News. There will be two ads in the Naples Daily News and one in the Collier Citizen.

Kathy is donating \$481, the cost for this publicity. They were able to get on to the Naples Park Citizens Assn Website. Parking in area 3 is a consideration. Volunteers are asked not to park in area 3. Park at boat ramp and get a cart ride or walk to area 3. New signs are being made for all the artists. Kathy attended a meeting with Todd Richards our concessionaire and with Bob's approval asked him to consider different ways to make donations through food sales. Nothing has come of it yet and there was concern that he was going to be there due to a conflict with the Salt Warrior event which he sponsors. Kathy and Valerie want to thank the rangers for handing out book marks at the gate. More have been printed. They are working on the t-shirt. They want to give a certificate of appreciation for those who did a lot. The board agreed to put 3 family park passes in each artist packet.

Children's Art show Marcia reported that at this point 5 schools are signed up and they are hoping for more. Banner, flyers will be underway this week. It was suggested that we preorder t-shirts for the family of the winner and the board approved.

Unfinished Business

Membership -Gabriella reported that we have gotten 35 renewals including the board. She has the 2016 gate passes. She is pleased to have folks open the mail and let her know memberships are waiting at the gate. She wants everything left in the envelope and she will deposit and send info to Kathe Rasch. We still need to do a better job of describing levels of membership and in writing letters to new and potential members she believes that we need to mention many of the concrete things that the Friends do and have done for the park. A meeting is planned in March to study membership levels and discuss possible changes to the brochure. The board agreed to give out 60 passes, 3 each for the artists.

Nominations for the Board – Larry reported that there were no nominations for the board and that at the annual meeting nominations from the floor should be permitted. Then the membership should vote on the slate of directors. Larry, Phil, and Marcia agreed to stay on the board so there are no vacancies.

New Business:

It was noted that Edgar Rasch will no longer be managing the Friends' spreadsheet. Marcia will send out special recognition to all members thanking him for his years of service. A certificate and gift will be presented to him at the annual meeting.

The State has mandated that money for food can no longer be given to the rangers. Jay and Valerie Thompson have graciously donated money in the past for pizza nights for the rangers. They now must order, pick up and deliver to the park.

Discussion surrounding getting Columbia type shirts for the beach stewards followed. The official shirts are very hot during the summer months. The board has considered buying new shirts for this purpose but no decision was made at this time.

Adjournment : 12:29 PM

Respectfully submitted, Marcia Byrd, Secretary

Date Approved _____