

Minutes for CSO Membership Meeting for March 12, 2007 Supporters of Del-Nor Wiggins Park, Inc.

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 AM with 20 members and 1 park staff present. Tickets for a 50/50 drawing were sold while Bob set up the projector for a brief presentation showing how Wiggins Pass looked 50 years ago. He showed us the changes that have taken place through the years related to hurricanes, dredging and the whims of “mother nature”.

Minutes from the last membership and board meetings were read and approved, we learned that we have passed the \$40,000 mark in our treasury, and we have a total of 67 members to date. Joan Oberton reported that we earned a total of \$220 on our March tag sale.

Several brief acknowledgements and announcements were made:

*The Palm Tree Press has been printed and will be passed out near the end of the meeting. A thank you went to Sharon Eddy for another fine edition. Volunteers were asked to fold additional copies for mailing to the rest of the members not present. Joan Erb took care of getting them addressed and mailed.

*A stack of 17 new books for the Ranger Library was shown, as well as a set of encyclopedias on Native Americans, donated by our new members Sandi and Vern Ellingson.

*The newly rehabilitated recycling display board (courtesy of Sandi and Vern) was displayed at the front of the room.

*The contribution of a new, badly needed coffee pot by Rosemary was acknowledged.

*Alliene was thanked for taking care of getting the banner for Discovery Day updated, as well as getting the director’s chair for the resident artist program and having the sling embroidered for Mr. North.

*It was pointed out that the reason our board members Joe and Dick were absent from the meeting was because they were

finishing the bath house repairs that they had started early that morning.

*Dick was also thanked for facilitating the debit card for use by the rangers to make purchases of necessary items for the park.

*Two newsletters were passed around for members to see. One from the DEP called "The Post" which has news features from around the park system. The other was the newsletter that is put out by the CSO from Collier Seminole State Park.

*It was also announced that there are still T-shirts available from the Art Show.

Lois gave a report from two recent district meetings. The first was held at Hugh Taylor Birch State Park on February 28th. A firm called Ketchum, Inc. had been hired by the DEP to do a feasibility study to decide if it would be appropriate to establish a statewide foundation (or endowment program) to pursue major fundraising projects for the Florida State Park system. The report is now on-line and Mike Bullock, the FPS Director, is asking for feedback from the CSO members, especially board officers. A copy of the study is available in the conference room.

The District IV CSO Meeting was held on March 3rd at Honeymoon Island State Park Nature Center, hosted by their CSO, the Friends of the Islands. There was a welcome speech by Roy Kimbell, our CSO Ambassador. He spoke about his role as a direct liaison with the director's office, providing technical assistance to those of us with problems, and developing a close relationship with our Park Programs Development Specialists. He also believes our primary function as a CSO is fundraising to support the park. He reminded us that we can personally champion any cause we believe in but before taking a stand on behalf of the CSO or the Park, we should always check with our Park Manager first. Roy also stated that future planning by the CSO's should include involving children in outdoor recreation. The guest speaker, Jim Stansbury gave a presentation on Strategic Planning. Lois

characterized it as rather high-powered and at a corporate level, but perhaps some of the points covered in the hand-outs could be utilized by our board members for long-range planning.

Bob gave a very brief overview of the park status. Plans for a modified ranger station are still in the works. He thanked those of us who came out on the February 22nd work day to help clear under brush and prune some of the shrubbery at the front entrance to the park. It gives visitors a better view through the mangroves so they can appreciate the forest and to see things like flocks of ibis roaming about. Bob mentioned that Adam is leaving and we are in need of another ranger. A new, high speed cash register has been purchased for the front gate, also, which should speed up the entry process.

Upcoming events were reviewed and sign-up sheets were circulated for volunteers to help with working at Mr. North's One-man Art Show on March 24th and the Family Discovery Day event on April 14th. Jo Ann encouraged people to fill the gaps and explained various jobs in more detail. Joan Erb is chairing the committee to get the 20th year anniversary celebration organized and a small group signed up for that. They will have their first meeting on the next Wednesday to nail down some of the details.

Meeting and Work Day dates and times for March and April were reviewed at the end of the meeting. The coincidence of the day after Easter clean-up and the next regular CSO meeting both falling on the same day was discussed. It was decided to have the meeting immediately following the clean-up instead of the usual 1:00 PM time.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon with refreshments served.