

Meeting Minutes for the Friends of Del-Nor Wiggins State Park, CSO

January 11, 2010

The President, Dick Liden, called the meeting to order at 10:07 following a picture slide show created by past Resident Artist, Rod Wiley. It was determined that a quorum of membership was present.

Dick introduced Carol Imbriani, the State officer who acts as the facilitator between the State and the CSO's in the southwest Florida district. He then reviewed the process of today's meetings, asking that everyone present complete their new, or renewal of, membership for 2010. An election of two new directors by the membership is required at this meeting. Directly following this meeting he announced there would be a Board of Director's meeting that new officers might be elected.

There were no minutes read for the November membership as the current secretary was not present.

Olga Williams gave a treasurer's report noting that currently there is a total treasury of \$44,542 including a checking account, money market account and a certificate of deposit. Dick Liden gave highlights of the financial performance for the CSO for 2009 noting that both income and expenses for the year were down from those of 2008 but the cash balances grew by nearly four thousand dollars.

Dick suggested that we might want to look at using CSO funds to pay for a boardwalk into the area around Turkey Bay opposite Area 5 on the bayside which is included in the current Unit Plan of the State for the Park. If the CSO were able to fund 60% of the cost, once estimated at \$150,000, Florida State would put forth the balance. It could take 3-4 years to work through applications for State funding as the process takes lots of planning. Dick said he would look into this further and make a proposal for membership consideration in the future.

Membership Chairperson Joan Erb reported we currently had 86 members but there were a few other requests for membership that she knew of that had not been finalized. The application forms were passed around for members to complete during this time.

Lois Cantwell announced that Phil Nye has agreed to continue his service on the Board and that there are two other positions to be filled at this time - the seats held by Joan Erb and Fred Eckert. Olga Williams will fill out her term of three years on the Board but would like to be replaced as Treasurer. Lois asked for nominations from the floor as there was no one who could serve from her previous request for nominations. Marcia Byrd was nominated as was Kathryn Eastlake. Kathryn agreed that she, with the help of her husband Dave, would be willing to serve; Marcia agreed as well. The nominations were seconded and as there was no opposition, the two positions will be filled by these two women.

Bob Steiger, the Park Manager, gave his report. The newly approved Unit Plan will be forwarded to our Webmaster, Alicia Astorga, for posting at the CSO website. He will see that a hard copy is in the meeting room as well. Some of the details related to a proposed parking garage at the Park were discussed and it is not part of the Unit Plan. Dick indicated he would ask one of the County Commissioners to attend a CSO meeting this Season to explain what the County sees as their plans.

Bob reported his assistant Dale Garrison has moved out of state and that on 1/20/2010 he will begin the interviewing process for her replacement from the 65 applicants. Bathhouses at Area 1,2 & 5 have been updated for handicap requirements and 3,4 & the Pavillion will be closed for 45-60 days while they are completed. There are two new Park Rangers and the law enforcement officer Collier Co. had at the Park entrance has been discontinued due to loss of funding. The dredging permit at the Pass is set to expire after 10 years this month.

Carolyn Shaw reported that she needs to know by February 6th which CSO members will be attending the Volunteer Appreciation Day planned for March 6th at Hillsborough River State Park, north of Tampa. This year there will be no planned transportation but people are encouraged to carpool as this is about a 2 ½ to 3 hour drive north. She also asked for participation with the shorebird count that takes place on 2/5.

Carol Imbriani, Park Program Development Specialist, told us of the coming District-wide meeting for Park management from the 30 parks in this District. She explained that she assists the CSO's with everything from how to get started to updates from IRS, grant application completion, recruiting and special events.

Jo Ann Linck thanked those who participated with the last event planning meeting and asked everyone to sign up for this Saturday's Art Show on the work schedule being passed around. There will be a food vendor and there has been an ad placed in a Ft. Myers art magazine as well as an article is planned to appear in the Naples Daily News. Marcia Byrd gave an overview of our desire to create a new fundraising event and asked if there were any ideas from the floor. Several ideas were suggested from a music festival to an "adopt a ___" as well as ideas on things that Fakahatchee Strand and Boca Grande other local State parks use. There will be an event planning committee meeting at 9:00 on Monday, 1/18. Committee members include Marcia, Larry Beer, Dick Liden, Kathryn Eastlake and Diane Schwartz.

Dick showed the many pictures of the leatherback turtle recently found at the Park and there was discussion as to this and other turtle and environmental concerns.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Schwartz

CSO Secretary