

MINUTES of the Friends of Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park
Membership Meeting – March 9, 2015

Alliene Liden conducted the 50/50.

Call to order: The Membership Meeting of the Friends of Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park was held in the CSO Room at Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park, Naples Florida on February 9, 2015. The meeting convened at 10:07 AM by Ann Petrillo, President. A quorum was established.

Board Members in attendance: Marcia Byrd, Elsie Morgan, Ann Petrillo, Kathe Rasch, and Valerie Thompson **Absent:** Larry Beer Joe Gagnier, Kathy Foster, Phil Nye

Staff present: Robert Steiger, Lori Heath Thorn

The minutes of the February 9, 2015 meeting were approved as read.

Officers' reports:

President: Ann reminded everyone that the Cayo Costa is Wednesday, March 11, 2015. Meet at the Park by 8 AM if you are carpooling. Directions to the marina were made available. Boat leaves dock at 10 AM. Count on traffic/congestion on the route.

Treasurer: Kathe reported that the checkbook has \$14,015.87 and the Money Market account has \$6782.37. The main expense was to Sue Huff for publicity for the two art shows. Most income came from checks for the Cayo Costa trip. The budget was completed thanks to JoAnn and Frank Laforgia who are doing a great job.

Park Mgr: It was Bob's birthday so we sang *happy birthday* to him. Bob commented that the bureau of design and construction contract managers have been at the park to approve the final plans for replacing boardwalks, ramps, and steps. Slopes and handrails are not up to the federal guidelines so they have been redesigned. Some boardwalks will be removed and a path constructed instead. \$325,000 has been allocated for the update. They hope to get the permit from Collier County soon so that the project can begin around April 15th. Also a gopher tortoise survey will need to be conducted before the project begins. The end of year report has been filed with the state, thanks to Kathe and Larry. It was done well ahead of the June 1st deadline. The IRS forms are filed as well.

The Park is waiting for coastal biologist to relook at our route for the proposed boardwalk.

Karen Schanzle, coastal biologist from Mote Marine Laboratory, will do an assessment of the best path through the mangroves for a boardwalk.

Two new park rangers have been hired: Carl Marchand who was with the Park service 15 years, and Robert Garcia who formerly worked as a hospital maintenance engineer.

Park Svs. Lori commented that our annual events are done. She asked that we notify the ranger at our entrance as we leave to let them know you are from the Friends meeting, so a parking space would not be available. She reminded everyone going on the Cayo Costa trip to bring lunch, lots of water, sunscreen and raingear. She thought we would return to Naples around 5:30 PM.

Committee Reports:

Membership – Kathe reported that she received 5-8 renewals. The question of how we market the Friends came up. New brochures will be distributed at our outreach events. Ritchie says he distributes brochures to folks on the beach. Jay gives them out at the gate. We have business cards for members to hand out. Ann suggested that folks take a handful of the cards and use them for promotion of the Friends. Kathe Foster got information about the Friends into the Vanderbilt Homeowners Association newsletter. A suggestion to set up a table at local flea markets was made.

Children's Art Show – The board decided to hold the Third Annual Children's Art Show next Year on the weekend of February 27-28, 2016.

Wildlife and Wildlands Art Show - Valerie Thompson and Kathy Foster are co-chairs of the show. Valerie explained that it is an annual event and our major fundraiser. She commented that it is a great day in Park with great art and nice folks. Sixteen artists have agreed to exhibit at this time and three to four just need to get their paper work in. In addition, three to four artists would like to enter the show. Valerie welcomed the participation of others. January 16, 2016, marks the date of the show next year.

Unfinished business:

Brochures are now available and members were encouraged to take some for distribution. A membership chair person is still needed.

New Business:

Ann announced that the April meeting is the last one this season. It will be a barbecue at the pavillion. Meat will be provided. Everyone is asked to bring a side dish. Date is Monday, April 13, 2015 at 10 AM. We will have a brief meeting followed by lunch.

50/50 – Valerie Thompson got the prize. She donated \$18 to the meat fund.

Adjournment: 10:35 adjourned AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Marcia Byrd, secretary
Friends of Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park

Date of Approval

Following the meeting, Michele Williams, Director for the Southeastern and Southwest Regions of Florida Public Archaeology Network at Florida Atlantic University gave a very interesting, fun and informative program titled: Who Made the Everglades. We learned the difference between artifacts and fossils. She deals in artifacts. She traced the history of the cultures and events that created the area we know as the Everglades.

Dr. Williams has participated in excavations throughout the southeastern United States for the past 25 years. Her specialty within archaeology is the use of plants by prehistoric Native Americans. She came bearing free gifts of pens, posters, and bookmarks.