

MINUTES of the Friends of Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park Membership Meeting – February 13, 2017 CSO Room

Board Members in attendance: Marcia Byrd, Milagros Dougan, Joe Gagnier, Kathy Foster, Gabriella Miyamoto, Phil Nye,

Board Members Absent: Larry Beer, Ann Petrillo, Valerie Thompson

Staff Members Present: Mark Nicoletti

50/50: Alliene Liden conducted the 50/50.

Call to order: The meeting convened at 10:00 AM by Kathy Foster, president.

Establishment of Quorum: A quorum was verified.

Guest Speaker: Lt. Dodd Bulger from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission spoke about the role of the FWC in south Florida. He manages the inland squad which monitors over a dozen state parks. The squad oversees hunting and fresh water fishing in the parks. In 2012 the park police merged with the FWC to increase presence of law enforcement. FWC officers operate in the same way as police officers. Parks are covered under rule 62-D which deals with alcohol consumption, speeding, drugs, weapons, violence, etc.

Lt. Bulger entertained questions:

- Are drones allowed in the parks? The use of drones in state parks is under review. All drones must be registered with the FAA as an aircraft. Right now this is a gray area.
- What should a person do if they see a violation of rule 62-D? Notify the gate or call the dispatch center in Miami: 305-470-6863 option 7 to get in touch with a duty officer. 50% of the time an officer is near the park or in it. Cell phone *339 will connect to the dispatch center, too.
- Can a boater beach a vessel on the beach in state parks? No. The boat must anchor 100 feet out from the beach, outside of the buoys in a swimming area.
- Are dogs on the beach allowed? No, must be on a leash in the picnic areas or roads only.
- Could a CSO partner with the FWC to do research with them? Probably
- Are any grants available for our CSO? Probably
- What does an officer do if there is suspicion of alcohol use on the beach? Lt. Bulger replied: "Is the juice worth the squeeze?"

Officers Reports:

- **President** – Kathy Foster, new president, introduced the officers to the membership. Valerie Thompson – VP, Milagros Dougan – treasurer, Marcia Byrd – secretary, Gabriella Miyamoto – membership and directors – Larry Beer, Joe Gagnier, Phil Nye and Ann Petrillo.
- **Treasurer** – Milagros Dougan reported that in January about \$4,000 was generated which is better than last year because of the proceeds from the Art Show. Current balance is \$71,000 in checking account, CDs and Money Markets.
- **Secretary** – The minutes of the Annual Meeting on January 9, 2017, were read and approved.

Park Manager Report: Volunteers have been cut back about 90% mainly due to the reduction in CS workers, so more volunteers are needed than in previous years.

Lori is managing the Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon which will be held on Mar 10th

Volunteers who qualify will receive notification from Lori.

Reports of Committees:

- **Membership** – Gabriella reported that 50 members have joined or renewed and 30 previous members have not. Annual memberships are now based on the month of renewal or joining. She is investigating ways to promote the Friends organization and will attend the February 21st outreach at the North Collier Regional Center. The gate house will be handing out the Friends' membership brochures. Gabriella explained that memberships are a large part of our revenue source as well as donations.
- **Art Show** – Kathy reported a \$3,300 income from the Art Show with two artists yet to send in their contribution. Artists pay \$50 to register and donate 20% of sales. 20 artists participated. Mary Limont, 2017 resident artist, will apprise the committee of the days she will be demonstrating her jewelry making at the park.
- **One Person Art Show** – Betty Wilson, 2016 resident artist, held a show on February 4th at the pavilion.
- **Children's Art Show** – Dates are 25-26 February. Marcia briefly described the event and passed around a sign-up sheet for volunteers that will be needed.

Unfinished Business:

- Songwriters at Sunset, a program held at Lover's Key, was attended by Kathy and Marcia. While the event was perfect for the setting, the pavilion on the beach makes it happen. This is probably not something we can hold at Delnor- Wiggins.
- The White Trailer, used for storage, has been emptied and needs to be disposed of. The board is looking in to how to remove it from the property. All items stored in the trailer have been sorted, organized or discarded and all items are now being stored in the CSO room.

New Business:

- Away Friends Trip to Rookery Bay Estuarine Preserve on March 3rd from 10 AM to noon. Meet there at 10 AM or at 9:00 AM at the boat ramp parking lot to carpool from the park. Brown bag your lunch or eat out on your own. RSVP to Lori.
- Clean Up Day on March 20th, 8 -10 AM. Meet in area 3. RSVP to Lori. Wear comfortable clothes and closed toed shoes.
- The Collier County Beach Trolley is now offering transportation to the beach from North County Regional Park on Livingston Rd.

50/50 winner – The winner received \$16 and was awarded a Volunteer State Park jacket. He returned the cash and kept the jacket.

Important dates:

- **February 25-26, 2017 – Children's Art Show** Volunteers needed. Sign up sheet available.
- **March 3, 2017 – Trip to Rookery Bay.** Meet there at 10 AM or carpool from park boat ramp lot at 9 AM.
- **March 6, 2017 10 AM Board Meeting, at Surf Colony.** Contact Lori if you wish to attend.
- **March 13, 2017 10 AM Membership Meeting in the CSO Room.**
- **March 20, 2017 8 – 10 AM, Park Clean-Up.** Meet at Area #3.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 11:20 AM

Respectfully Submitted,
Marcia Byrd

Date Approved _____

