

**Minutes of the Friends of Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park  
Membership Meeting - February 12, 2018**

**Guest Speaker:** Biologist Dr. Phil Allman from the FGCU Herpetology Research Lab

**Topic: Gopher Tortoises**

Dr. Allman talked about the importance of the gopher tortoise and how this unique species deserves our attention and support. He explained the characteristics and habitats of the gopher tortoise, focusing on those living in coastal dunes habitat found at Delnor-Wiggins Pass S.P. The tortoises in our Park are currently being studied and over several years of research at the Park more than 50 FGCU students have been involved. Gopher tortoises are listed and protected at the Florida state level. DWPSP is fortunate to be a site for Dr. Allman's research on gopher tortoises.

**Business Meeting:**

**Board Members in attendance:** Larry Beer, Marcia Byrd, Milagros Dougan, Kathy Foster, Phil Nye and Valerie Thompson.

**Board Members Absent:** Joe Gagnier and Gabriella Miyamoto

**Staff Members Present:** Lori Heath Thorn, Zach Lozano.

**Call to order:** President Kathy Foster convened the meeting. Quorum established.

**Reports from officers, staff and committees:**

I. **President's Report:** Kathy announced Marcia Byrd and Milagros Dougan have been appointed members of Finance Committee, and Valerie Thompson and Gabriella Miyamoto will serve on the Audit Committee. The goal is to have a financial policy for the Friends organization in place by May.

One position on the Friends Board of Directors is open. Members are encouraged to apply and the position has been advertised.

II. **Vice President's Report:** One mission of the Friends is to provide educational opportunities to its members and one of the benefits of membership is the opportunity to participate in field trips related to group interests. Marcia Byrd and Park Manager Zach Lozano shared tentative plans for an April 9, 2018 field trip to visit the Port of Boca Grande Lighthouse at Gasparilla Island S.P. The field trip would replace the annual spring picnic meeting. The trip would include a tour of the Lighthouse, Museum and Park followed by time to enjoy lunch in Boca Grande. The travel time is approximately 2 hours one way and the suggestion is to hire a bus for transportation. The estimated cost is \$30.00-\$35.00 per person for bus, tolls and tip. A showing of hands demonstrated the group would like to pursue this opportunity. Members and their friends are invited to participate. Marcia and Zach will follow-up and more details will be forthcoming through email and at the next membership meeting. Reservations will be required.

III. **Secretary's Report:** Minutes from the January 15, 2018 Membership Meeting were approved.

IV. **Treasurer's Report:** Milagros reported the following:

Total income as of January 31 of \$3,900 which is about \$500 lower than the previous year because of lower donations at the art show Expenses are \$1,100, which are \$800 higher than the previous year because of higher apparel expenditures. The net income of \$2,820 is \$1,300 lower than last year because of the above factors. Total cash position is \$93,182 maintained at Everbank and Wells Fargo.

The Friends received a \$25,000 gift from the Dellora Norris Foundation. Pursuant to the gift instructions, \$10,000 was identified for the Dellora garden (\$500 for 20 years) and the balance of \$15,000 will be commingled with the investments of the Friends for future projects.

**V. Park Update:** Zach attended Marine Sea Turtle meetings in St. Augustine. He shared information about the five different types of sea turtles. Interestingly, 1,400 cold stunned sea turtles were collected & revived this winter during the cold spells. Zach also stated that 1,802 sea turtles were washed up and stranded on the beaches in Florida during 2017, 50% were injured by boat strikes.

In Park updates, Zach announced that the boardwalk west of the gatehouse has been rebuilt by Ranger Terry and new picnic tables and grills have been installed to replace those lost during hurricane Irma.

Delnor-Wiggins Pass S.P. was mentioned in a recent article in *Naples Daily News*. Collier County staff is looking at ways to improve and increase beach access on county beaches. Zach assured the group that the park is a state park and will continue to be a state park. He said the article included brainstorming proposals and Delnor-Wiggins Pass S. P. staff will continue to work with county officials to provide access. The Beach Bus ridership was low in January due to cooler weather and few visitors. Now that weather is warmer, ridership is predicted to increase. The park closes when the parking lots are full. Parking cannot overflow onto the road. Emergency vehicles must have unencumbered access to all areas of the park. Zach highlighted the park staff's visit to the January Literacy Night at Naples Park Elementary School where park information was shared with our neighboring community members.

**VI. Membership Chair Report:** Currently the membership numbers 100. New this year, each artist who registered for the 2018 Art Show received a Friends family membership. Approximately 10 Friends memberships have been sold at the gatehouse. Soon, a sign will be posted near gatehouse to notify visitors that memberships are available for purchase, check or cash only.

**VII. Children's Art Show:** February 24 and 25, 2018. Marcia showed the newest t-shirt. Children's sizes are available. Adult sizes may be ordered. Students from nine Collier County public and private schools will be participating in the 2018 show. The Florida theme will be illustrated in artwork from two grade levels: K-2 and 3-5. Ribbons will be awarded to winning artists. The Beach Bus will be available for transportation and, for this special event, drop off art show visitors in area 5. Phil Nye will be the photographer and photo release forms will need to be signed by parents. Members are encouraged to volunteer at the event.

**VIII. Wildlife and Wildlands Art Show:** The successful show had 21 registered artists in 2018. Donations from the artists are still being received. The music, provided by the Songwriters Group, proved to be a very popular addition to the show.

**No new business**

**No old business**

**Adjournment: 11:47 a.m.**

**Upcoming dates:**

Children's Art Show February 24 & 25, 2018

Board of Directors meeting, March 5, 2018

Membership Meeting, March 12, 2018

Speaker: Rachael Kangas, M.A. RPA, Florida Public Archaeology Network

Topic: "Who Made the Everglades"

Respectfully submitted,  
Valerie Thompson, Secretary

Date approved: 3.12.18

FRIENDS OF DELNOR-WIGGINS PASS STATE PARK

Treasurer's Report - February 5, 2018

| <u>Financial Results</u> | 31-Dec-17   | 31-Dec-16   | \$ Change   | 31-Jan-18  | 31-Jan-17  | \$ Change    |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| Total Income             | \$41,314.85 | \$15,520.75 | \$25,794.10 | \$3,932.22 | \$4,432.81 | (\$500.59)   |
| Total Expenses           | \$19,142.88 | \$9,587.03  | \$9,555.85  | \$1,112.08 | \$276.53   | \$835.55     |
| Net Income               | \$22,171.97 | \$5,933.72  | \$16,238.25 | \$2,820.14 | \$4,156.28 | (\$1,336.14) |

Cash Position

|                          | Cash Position<br>12/31/2017 | Cash Position<br>1/31/2018 | Interest<br>Income<br>2018 | Interest Rate |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| <u>Wells Fargo</u>       |                             |                            |                            |               |
| - Checking Account       | \$10,353.65                 | \$12,691.60                |                            |               |
| - Money Market Account   | \$9,797.74                  | \$9,798.16                 | \$0.42                     | 0.05%         |
| <u>Everbank</u>          |                             |                            |                            |               |
| - Money Market Account   | \$35,336.58                 | \$35,349.68                | \$13.10                    | 0.41%         |
| - Certificate of Deposit |                             |                            |                            |               |
| - 3-Month                | \$10,068.84                 | \$10,077.95                | \$9.11                     | 1.00%         |
| - 6-Month                | \$10,071.28                 | \$10,079.02                | \$7.74                     | 0.85%         |
| - 1-Year                 | \$15,167.63                 | \$15,185.88                | \$18.25                    | 1.33%         |
| Total                    | \$90,795.72                 | \$93,182.29                | \$48.62                    |               |