

Friends of Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park
September 9, 2024
Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park Maintenance Area

Board Members Present: Eric Cosentino, Skip Counselman, Kim Finer, Donna Graham, Janice Kmetz and Valerie Thompson

Park Staff in Attendance: Manager Cody Peters

Others in Attendance: no other individuals attended

Meeting was called to order at 9:08 a.m.

President's Report, Janice Kmetz:

- Janice briefly talked about Hurricane Debby and how park personnel and Volunteers prepared prior to and restock after the storm.
- Board members were reminded to log their volunteer hours.

Vice-President's Report, Kim Finer:

- Members are asked to send Friends newsletter information for the October issue to Kim prior to September 30.
- Thank you to Kim for shopping and delivering the drinks for the Rangers during the summer months.
- Kim reported on the MOSH grant project, a mobile plant shade trailer that will be located in the Park. Kim and John Finer are working on this and have prepared required documentation for the state biologists. The trailer for the MOSH was delivered August 20. Park Ranger Lenick is working with the Finers on this project.

Secretary's Report, Valerie Thompson:

Minutes from the May 6, 2024 DWPSB Board Meeting were shared through email. Kim made a motion to accept the minutes, Eric seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Treasures Report, Eric Cosentino:

Total assets were up for the period ending July 31st, 2024 \$45,141.59 or 17.9% for the same period last year. Total income was down \$3,122.39 or 5.74%. Total expense was down \$47,578.40 or 378%. Net income was up \$41,802.61 or 105% due mostly to reduced expenses.

Eric suggested taking \$40,000 from the business checking account at Wells Fargo, which is non-interest bearing, and investing the funds in a 7-month CD at Wells Fargo with a current yield of 4.25%. Eric made a motion to transfer \$40,000 from checking account and deposit it into a 7-month CD at Wells Fargo, Donna seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Membership Report, Donna Graham:

- Donna Graham reported critter, t-shirt and "gate" donations are down; no online merchandise orders have been received in quite a while.
- The Friends currently have 145 members.
- Donna will send Kim membership level information for inclusion in the October newsletter.

Park Manager's Report, Cody Peters

Park updates, Budget and Personnel:

- Parking lots 1-4 are now open for visitors; Parking lot 5 will remain closed during the reconstruction in the Park. In order to improve habitat for wildlife, trash receptacles were not replaced in lots 3 & 4. Boat ramp parking and road area will be repaired and repaved.
- Shop area services are waiting permitting prior to work on sewage and electric restoration.

- Due to high waters during storms, a day use area will be developed in area 5 with the restroom facility moved to an upland area.
- The 100% drawings for Park buildings is due in April. Park Entrance Ranger Station is not in the plans at this time. Board members expressed concerns about CSO storage and meeting space in the plans—*tabled until October meeting*. Cody reminded us no work can be conducted during turtle nesting season.
- DWPSP and Collier County MTSU will partner to improve the entrance to the Park, more info to follow
- Staffing updates: Park Ranger, Lauren Hagen has started work. PSS, interviews completed
- Operating FY24/25 park budget allotment: General operating expenses: \$44676.00; OPS, part time employees: \$31896.00; HOSP: \$7773.00 (Generators & buoys); FCO projects: \$6000.
- Recycling dumpster and station will be removed from the park, visitors will be asked to “pack out trash”.
- Park receiving donation of electric beach wheelchair, Cody will notify Kim when the wheelchair arrives for newsletter announcement.

Park Goals

- Reduce time spent operating front gate
- Increase programs within park and explore events
- Restore routine maintenance of park, recent addition of a chipper to the equipment
- Improve sea turtle and shore bird habitat, protection of marine life
- Add interpretive kiosks through park to share Delnor-Wiggins SP story. Cody requested ideas for graphic designs.

Park Needs from CSO

- Mobile visitor center (table for now and revisit when CSO begins generating revenue); Restore place for CSO to generate donations and protected area for guest interactions.
- Develop kiosk graphics for adding interpretive material along the beach and boat ramp
- CSO banner will be updated to feature, “save the turtles, pack out your trash”.
- Develop and fund beach toy recycling: Donna will work to partner with local scout group
- Cost sharing of Connex box to improve shop area
 - Rationale: reduce time of hurricane prep, rehab, and improve workspace
 - PSS Todd working with county on any permitting requirements
 - Funding request of \$10,500 *will be voted on at October board meeting*

Old Business:

- Turtle Nest Update: Donna Graham reported that there were 60 nests during this season, 7 donations were from businesses, 16 of the nests were not sponsored.
- Turtle Adoptees Appreciation Event will be held on November 9 at the Park.
- Critter/T-shirt Inventory Update: new critter jackets have been ordered.

New Business:

- Fundraising Beach Boutiques will continue for the 2024-25 season. Boutiques will begin on September 21 and continue twice per month. On some of the dates, beach clean-ups will also be scheduled.
- A special Beach Boo-tique is planned for October 26 (replaces Trunk or Treat).

- New Friends pop-up canopy is needed, *tabled until October meeting*.
- September 21 International Coastal Clean-up. Kim requested volunteers use buckets instead of plastic bags to collect trash and reduce unnecessary waste.
- Photos with Santa, details later.
- Continue with the Beach Shelling interpretative programs beginning in January.
- A memorial donation to Habitat for Humanity for Maurice Astroga. Janice made motion to donate \$100.00, Skip seconded the motion, unanimously approved. Eric will send.

Meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by,
Valerie Thompson

Date approved: November 4, 2024

Upcoming dates: (all meetings will be held at the park). Note: November 4. Some of these were cancelled due to Hurricane damage.

Coastal Clean-up	September 21
Beach Boutique	September 21
Board meeting	October 7, 9 a.m.
Friends membership mtg.	October 15, 10 .m.
Beach Boo-tique	October 26
Holiday Membership mtg.	December 9