

Friends of Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park Board Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2026
Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park Operations Area

Board members in attendance (in person and via phone): Eric Cosentino, Skip Counselman, Kim Finer, Donna Graham, Monica Slattery and Valerie Thompson. **Absent:** Jane Myers.

Park Personnel in attendance: Park Manager Cody Peters, PSS Dual South, and Park Program Development Specialist (District 4) Ashley Haymond.

President Kim Finer convened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. and ensured the establishment of a quorum.

Secretary: Previous Minutes Approval.

The minutes from the May 4, 2026 BOD meeting were approved as written.

President's Report: Kim reported the water at the interpretation trailer is going well and more will be purchased. Q3 CSO Seminar: Donna and Kim attended the autumn webinar hosted by the Florida State Parks Foundation. The agenda encompassed introductions to Foundation personnel, discussions on grant and resource availability, and an opportunity to ask questions. A comprehensive report of the meeting is available upon request.

Treasurer's Report: Eric reported for the period ending July 31st, 2026, total assets were down \$22,649.21 or 9.0% to \$250,658.01. Total income was up \$2,554.95 or 8.5% to \$29,813.70. Expenses increased \$43,993.39 to \$54,302.65, up 81%. Overall, there was a net loss of \$24,488.95 from a gain of \$16,949.49 for the same period last year. PayPal is no longer being used by Friends as a payment method.

Membership Report: Donna reported we currently have 94 members. Donna requested BOD members work together to make a plan for Friends member activities for October, November and December.

Adopt-A-Nest Report: Donations to this project net total of \$20,000. 66 donors sponsored 46 nests. As of August 30, 61 nests were recorded, 63 false crawls, 53 hatchings, 2 disorientations and 5 predation activities. The BOD members thanked Donna for her work in chairing this project for the past 4 years. A new chair will be sought for the 2027 season.

Park Manager's Report:

Volunteer recognition: Kim and Eric were recognized for reaching milestone hours of volunteer work.

Personnel Updates: Jorge Castillo joined as OPS working weekends on the field shift. AmeriCorps position transferred to Koreshan S.P.

Projects:

- Automated pay stations anticipated to be installed September 21, concrete pads are complete.
- Park has moved to a cashless operation. A request was made to restore 12 free park passes for Friends members.
- Shop/Admin Office construction progress: Permitting is being completed.
- Mobile Interpretation Center/Trailer: Volunteer recruitment and ongoing interpretation are advantageous aspects of having a designated location for Park information and engagement.

- The Board of Directors (BOD) has requested that the Friends information poster placed at the boat ramp be enlarged. Additionally, they have requested that a similar information poster be placed at the interpretation trailer.
- Graphic design for exterior of the trailer is on track. BOD requested a preview of design prior to it being transferred to wrap.
- Park budget has been set for the next fiscal year. Some of the budget lines include: Operational expenses (\$39,779.74), Land Management (\$32,541.48), HOSP-uniforms, UTV, program supplies (\$16,160.95), FCO-facilities, repair and maintenance of equipment, vehicles, structures (\$7,500.00).
- Garbage management: No trash cans in the park.
- Kim reported that a frequent visitor expressed concern about the absence of trash cans during beach clean-up activities. The visitor's concerns were so significant that they reached out to Cody, but their inquiry went unanswered. The Board of Directors (BOD) strongly advises Cody to promptly respond to all inquiries and letters received from members. During the BOD meeting, Cody proposed handing off trash to staff members for disposal.
- ADA: An electric wheelchair, storage unit and charging system, funded by Florida State Park Foundation, is now available. Kim questioned inaccuracies and omissions in a "beach wheelchair" article published in *Florida Weekly*.
- Cody is working on permit to add mobi-mat to southern beach walkover at parking lot #1. Installation will be after turtle season.
- Native landscaping plants at Park entrance and labor will be donated by Young Presidents of America. Donna requested list of plants that are being used. Lunetta needs to be repositioned.
- FGCU is donating 2,000 SW region sea oats and labor for dunes planting.
- In fiscal year 2025/2026, revenue generated from annual passes and parking fees has experienced a modest increase. However, this revenue falls short of the level it should be, particularly given the substantial number of park visitors.
- Non-native plants are being hand pulled.
- Interpretation programs are being offered on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Annual plan year 2027: Tabled. Board members were asked to review Cody's requests and prioritize them for a later discussion.

New Business:

- **Updated Unit Management Plan (UMP):** Kim will clarify Friends official role in the UMP.
- **Summer Business/BOD Actions:** see addendum
- **Status of Mobile Shade House (MOSH) as a Friends Initiative:** The Friends group and MOSH grant writers Kim and John Finer are no longer involved with this project.

Old business:

- **Beautification project:** Friends are no longer involved in this project.
- **Art on the Interpretation Center/Trailer:** Friends are no longer involved with design of wrap artwork, and request a preview of the final design prior to transfer. See addendum.
- **Banner frame at the entry island:** Donna requested the frame be resized to fit the banners.
- **Action items:** Eliminate F-4 and F-5. Add resize banner frame at entry island.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:11 a.m.

Submitted by:

Valerie Thompson

Date approved: October 5, 2026

Upcoming date: October 5, 2026. 9:00 a.m. Friends Board meeting at the Park