

Friends of the Island Parks Board Meeting 19 January 2010, 6.30 pm

Chairperson: Barry Metcalfe

Board Members present: Shane Bittaker, Wayne Case, Ray Dabkowski, Nancy Dunne, Cynthia Farris, Ron Geisheimer, Diane Hood, Scott Hood, Jacques Marion, Bob Meadows, Melanie Metcalfe, Sharon Meyer, Mike Moran, Gabriella Mullins, Sally Naylor, Toni Wise.

In attendance: Gloria Beauchamp, Bill Gruber, Peter Krulder, Karen Malo, Tim Marshall.

Previous Minutes: November 09 Minutes approved.

Matters arising:

- Florida State Park Story: Barry contacted local PBS, film to be screened as soon as possible.
- FIP “official” photographer: no volunteer from Board, so Barry will ask at next Members’ meeting.
- Costin Opening: congratulations card received from D.Gifford re. “elegant reception”.
- Holiday Party: huge success, Sea-Sea Riders venue – excellent, repeat for 2010.

President’s Report:

Warm welcome to new Board members Cindy, Nancy, Sally and Toni; and to new Vice President, Ron.

Barry asked every Board member to join 1 or 2 committees as this is the way the FIP functions. Expect much work in next 5 years to raise \$900,000 to achieve its goals (Caladesi Exhibit complete by 2012; Playground complete by 2013; Bike Trail extension, complete by 2015).

Treasurer’s Report:

In George’s absence, Ray presented the November–December 2009 Treasurer’s Report (pre-circulated). Closing balance for November \$127,752.72; and for December \$133,604.89

Park Manager’s Report:

- Peter thanked those who helped dismantle the unwanted rock wall.
- Sand bags are going to be used to shore-up the eroding beach where bathhouse 3 once stood.
- New site for bathhouse progressing well (“loo with a view”?)
- Peter thanked FIP for paying to have the carpet cleaned in the NC.
- Kiwanis Adventure Run – congratulations to Sharon and team for great organization. Kiwanis may now be a source of volunteers for IED.
- Volunteer Picnic, March 6th at Hillsborough River. Reply to Karen by February 1st.
- FPS Passports – available for sale and for stamping both at toll booth and NC.

Membership:

Ray reported - 50 renewal invitations had just been mailed. Membership, counted over a rolling 15 months incl. 3 months to allow renewals to be returned and paid, increased to 231. Programs for members’ meetings to include Chocolate Buffet in February – **all Board members to contribute, please.**

Plan to have more programs by our Rangers who have graduated from Interpretive Training.

Nature Center Operations and Retail:

Barry suggested that the Nature Center Ops. should be split into 2 - Retail and Ops. Sharon will continue to be responsible for Retail. Peter and Barry to discuss responsibilities of NC Ops committee and seek members.

Barry asked that figures be provided at each Board meeting for retail sales and for number of visitors to NC.

Retail - FPS 75th logo (plus names of islands) will be sole design this year for polos, Ts and caps (assorted colors). Rain barrel classes continuing, including one especially for a Ladies Gardening Club in February. Next artist / gallery opening – yet to be announced.

Retail sales: \$5,560 in Novembers, \$5,287 in December. Annual \$34, 675.

NC Ops – Tim reported he is preparing next newsletter and would welcome more articles and photos. Lots of volunteers and returning snowbirds available to help at NC; Tim is working on his management skills. Many visitors.

Island EarthDays 2010:

Sharon reported meeting held on 7th January – see IED Minutes. New Board members thanked for joining in (Sally to assist Barry; Cindy / children's area; Nancy / nature tables; Toni / tokens).

Next meeting February 4th.

Benches:

Wayne to co-chair with Bob.

Goal of 12 for 2009 achieved! Lower budget target for 2010 because the Parks are almost at full capacity. Alternatives – donate a panel for Caladesi Exhibit; memorial “book plate” for donated books in NC library.

Other Fundraising Committees:

In order to progress FIP's quest for new sources of funds, Barry asked for volunteers to take an active part on the following committees:

- **Grants:** Harry Gross has already found 9 potential grants. He would charge \$250 per grant submission (great value relative to amount of work involved). Meeting agreed.

Committee to assist Harry – Barry, Sally, Gabriella, Jacques.

- **Sponsorship:** Rebecca regrets she can offer advice but no longer has time to be pro-active.

- **Wills, Trusts and Bequests:** Gregory Gay address the Board in June 2009 (see Minutes) on how to position FIP to become a future benefactor of donations from wills. Barry said that FIP needs to pursue this because it could become a major source of funding. Gabriella and Peter to ask the Chamber since they are also researching this. Ron mentioned that a leaflet could be given to local funeral homes. Barry thought that some of the FIP general membership might be interested in including the park in their wills.

Sally (and Melanie) may be willing to work on a committee to research this.

Membership of other Committees:-

- **Audit:** George, Barry, Peter, Mike, Wayne.
- **Long Term Planning:** Scott, George, Peter, Barry.
- **Caladesi Exhibit:** Phil Henderson, Terry Fortner, Bill G, Barry, Sharon, Cindy, Wayne, plus 2 from general membership.
- **Honeymoon Playground:** “Love fore” fundraisers (Scott, Diane, Ron, Bob), Gloria, Nancy. More members needed.
- **Membership:** Ray, Diane, Ron, Rebecca, Toni. Very busy committee. Suggestion that membership admin (such as monthly renewals) should be dealt with separately from Events. Melanie offered to help. Discussion to be continued after Board meeting.
- **Nature Center Operations and Retail:** to be divided into 2 committees.
Retail- Sharon (chair); Shane; Tim. 4 more members needed with retail/numeric skills. Ask general membership for volunteers (“Help wanted” in newsletter; mention at next meeting).
Operations – diverse! Peter and Barry to review original description.

A.O.B.

- Calendar sales – only 40 left from 300 print run.; agreed to reduce price to \$4.99 each.
- Scott suggested that a questionnaire of the general Membership’s talents/interests would enable us to invite specific individuals to become involved where we need help.
- Sally asked if there was a background check of volunteers working the cash register; the only check is for sexual predators; no criminal or financial check is made. However the amount of daily cash is usually under \$200 and there are always 2 volunteers per shift.

Meeting closed at 8.22 pm

Next Membership meeting: Tuesday 26 January 7.00 pm

Next EarthDays meeting: Thursday 4 February 6.30 pm

Next Board meeting: Tuesday 16 February 6.30 pm

Melanie Metcalfe 25 January 2010