

Friends of the Island Parks Board Meeting 16 November 2010, 6.30 pm

Board Members present: Chairperson: Barry Metcalfe

Shane Bittaker, Ray Dabkowski, Nancy Dunne, Cindy Farris, Ron Geisheimer, Diane and Scott Hood, Melanie Metcalfe, Sharon Meyer, Gabriella Mullins, Sally Naylor, George Skalkeas, Toni Wise

In attendance: Gloria Beauchamp, Peter Krulder, Tim Marshall, Pat Snare.

Apologies: Jacques Marion, Bob Meadows.

Minutes of last meeting, 19 October 2010: accepted unanimously.

President's Report:

- Special welcome to Pat Snare; attending the meeting prior to Board election.
- CSO Conference, 3-5 December. Well worth attending; excellent program: funds available from FIP for accommodation and travel – contact Barry.
- The Great Visit Florida Beach Walk, 6 November (to photo every mile of Florida's beaches to show they are as beautiful as ever): thanks to Friends for taking part; covered 9 miles of beach on HISP and Caladesi; great photos.
- Dunedin's Holiday Parade, 11 December at 4 pm – Park usually enters but this year the Friends will enter in order to promote our organization. Friends asked to volunteer to help decorate our float and/or walk beside / sit on it – contact Barry. This is a really fun event and a great opportunity for advertizing IED etc.

Treasurer's Report:

- George guided us through the October report, which was accepted unanimously.
- **2011 Budget:** George defined and explained the major items, with great care and clarity. He was congratulated and the 2011 Budget was accepted unanimously.

Park Manager's Report:

- Halloween: many thanks to Friends for taking part; great event; 1099 visitors.
- Adventure Run, Sunday 9 January 2011: volunteers needed. See Sharon.
- Leaving Party for APM Gloria, Wednesday 1 December, 5.30 pm, South Beach Pavilion. Please bring dish to share; BYOB. Everyone is invited to give Gloria a great send-off.

2011 Board Nominations:

Date for AGM and election of Board and Officers: Saturday 4 December 2010; agreed unanimously.

(Secretary's note: please consider if you are prepared - and have the time - to take on the responsibilities of being an active Board member, contributing to one or more Working Groups, regularly taking part in Board meetings, supporting the general membership meetings, and – in particular - fully participating in our fund raising efforts.)

On behalf of the nominating committee, Ron guided us through the schedule of election requirements. Ron had already emailed the relevant documents to all Board members prior to the meeting.

Barry commented that, like other established organizations such as Rotary and DCO, the Friends should incorporate Succession Planning with "Officers Elect" who know they will be taking over a particular office the following year. In 2012 the Friends will definitely need a new President, Secretary and probably Treasurer.

Membership Report:

- Ray reported membership has again increased; now at 272. When pressed by Barry, Ray thought a membership goal of 350 for 2011 was just about possible. Barry commented that we really are going to need an extension to the RCNC meeting room; Peter agreed.
- Subjects for discussion at next committee meeting: redesign of application form; membership gift cards; perks for higher membership level (outings?); cost of membership for a couple.
- 2011 Calendar: Ray to make final selection of photos.

Membership meetings and socials:

- AGM and Holiday party, 4 December, at Sea-Sea Riders followed by dessert at Boat - Parade. Invitation cards to be mailed to general membership.
- May need program for January meeting to replace Gallery Opening.
- Chocolate buffet planned for February.

Nature Centre Retail:

Sharon reported net sales of \$2,864 for October with a gross profit of 38%.

May not have artist for January; if so, ask Ernie if he wishes to extend his show.

Next rain barrel class on 11 December.

Compost barrels: Barry asked if we could also run compost-making classes and sell the kits as a retail item. Tim researching potential program.

Holiday Sale for Friends': 20% off, Nov 26-Dec 25. Excl. calendars and artwork.

Nature Centre Operations:

Tim proposed organizing an orientation to train docents/volunteers about the Friends in preparation for staffing booths at events. Unanimously approved. Agreed Saturday 22 January 2011, 2.00-3.30 pm. Board officers/members asked to attend.

Tim preparing next newsletter. Will include mention of any Friends who have passed.

New internet service: existing order cancelled; Barry and Sharon to discuss Wirefly.

Island EarthDays 2011, April 16 & 17:

- Many, many thanks to George for coming to the rescue of the Friends' most lucrative fund-raising event. George to chair the co-ordinating meetings; Sharon to assist.
- Every Board member will have an area of responsibility and will be expected to take a leadership role. George will be contacting each Board member shortly. Even if one can not be there for the event, there is plenty to be done beforehand.
- Request for job descriptions for the area leaders.

- Need ideas for new activities to keep visitors interested, to encourage them to stay longer at event (...more \$).
- Intention to keep the meetings short - each leader asked to submit a brief written progress report in advance. Discussion to concentrate on any "issues". Realistically, not everyone will attend every meeting; don't then complain about decisions made in your absence.
- No need to wait for first meeting in January...start working on your areas now.

Playground:

Diane reported that the latest committee meeting was attended by a representative from a playground equipment supplier; proposal and costing awaited.

Caladesi Exhibit:

Cindy has created a wonderful blog but this will not be released unless full support is given by FPS for elevated viewing platform. Peter has contacted District to propose a meeting. Barry suggested using Skype to eliminate need for travel; Gabriella generously offered to give Peter a webcam for this.

Benches:

Excellent article about the bench program has just been published in the SPT. George asked that it should be mentioned by Tim in the newsletter (website link).

George proposed a motion specifically to avoid the use of the bench memorials for advertising; he emphasized that this applies *only* to the bench memorials:

"Friends of the Island Parks, Inc. will not accept contributions to its Memorial Bench Program for any inscriptions that, in the sole discretion of Friends of the Island Parks, Inc., promote any commercial product or venture". Approved unanimously.

Wildflower Garden:

Barry reported he met with first donor and family, visiting from Maryland. They toured site and nursery and were impressed by progress. Barry to ask George Fisher about hooking up the sink.

Peter has contacted Plant Initiatives; meeting a.s.a.p. after 1 December, with Claudia, Dan, Barry and Toni.

Grants:

Harry continues to make applications. Economic situation has hit availability of grants.

Sponsorship:

It is hoped that a new Board member will take on the heading up sponsorship in 2011.

Wills:

George reported he had been contacted by a potential donor. It was suggested that such donors should be invited to complete a "pledge card" so that the Friends might know how much was being "willed".

A.O.B.

On behalf to the Friends, Barry proposed a toast to APM Gloria to congratulate her on her promotion to Park Manager of Lovers' Key. He thanked her for being so supportive to the Friends and said how much we will all miss her.

Meeting closed at 8 pm.

Diary dates:

Party for Gloria: Wednesday 1 December 2010, 5.30 pm, South Beach Pavilion.

AGM and Holiday Party: Saturday 4 December 2010, 5.00 pm, Sea-Sea Riders.

Friends' Honeymoon float at Dunedin Parade: Saturday 11 December, 4 pm in Dunedin

Board Meeting : Tuesday 18 January 2011, 6.30 pm, RCNC.

Orientation (how to promote Friends at events): Saturday 22 January 2011, 2 pm, RCNC.

General members' meeting : Tuesday 25 January 2011, 7 pm, RCNC.