

Friends of the Island parks Board Meeting 16 February 2010, 6.30 pm

Chairperson: Barry Metcalfe

Board Members present: Ray Dabkowski, Nancy Dunne, Ron Geisheimer, Jacques Marion, Melanie Metcalfe, Sharon Meyer, Mike Moran, Gabriella Mullins, George Skalkeas, Toni Wise.

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

Apologies: Shane Bittaker, Wayne Case, Cynthia Farris, Bill Gruber, Diane and Scott Hood, Bob Meadows, Ellen Pfau.

Previous Minutes: January 2010 Minutes approved.

Matters arising:

- FIP "official" photographer: grateful thanks to Ray for volunteering; to be assisted by Dean Bentley (FIP member).
- Kiwanis Adventure Run: \$642 donated to FIP. At recent Kiwanis meeting, Peter gave excellent presentation about the Park; Barry impressed them with FIP's list of Goals and Accomplishments and solicited 12 more volunteers for IED, plus 3 new Friends' members.
- Audit Committee to meet on Monday 1 March 2.30pm.

President's Report:

Barry confirmed that the current list of Goals and Accomplishments, based on Peter's priority list, was sent to all Board members this past month.

Treasurer's Report:

George reported:

- including latest purchase of a \$10,000 CD, FIP now has 4 CDs (total \$40,000) set aside for exhibit renewals.
- \$60,000 set aside for long range projects.
- sum set aside for the Rangers' Pick (radios when available).

Treasurers report approved.

Park Manager's Report:

- Visitation down 2%.
- Volunteer Appreciation Picnic at Hillsborough SP, 6 March
- Dunedin Triathlon at HISP, 6 June; volunteers needed from FIP.
- Learning in Florida's Environment (Life) program offered to Dunedin Middle School at HISP. Funding of \$600 needed to transport the children to park. Agreed to fund this as a one-time situation. Peter was asked to ensure school realizes funds are being provided by the Friends, not from the State.

Membership:

Ray reported 2 new members but there is an overall drop in numbers due to non-renewals.

Nature Center Retail:

Sharon reported (24 Feb) \$2776 sales for January 2010. Monthly and running FIP fiscal year (Jan-Dec) totals to be provided at each Board.

Latest merchandise is arriving - embroidered with 75th Anniversary logo and Honeymoon/Caladesi – made in USA, embroidered in Dunedin.

Greatly admired by Board; congratulations and many thanks to Sharon!

Tim has arranged for Bob Linn to take a monthly inventory; to be assisted by Marilyn S.

George was commended and thanked for building the attractive display stand for the hiking sticks.

Nature Center Operations:

More committee members needed! Peter, Gloria and Barry met to discuss role of committee – many thanks to Gloria for preparing a draft “job description”.

Tim reported: 3,260 visitors to NC in January 2010.

Island EarthDays 2010:

Sharon reported that all was going well because every team member was taking good care of their responsibilities. **Next meeting: Thursday 4th March.**

Draw tickets – Ed Heitov was thanked for securing such great prizes and especially for personally funding the kayak. Costco offered a \$150 gift basket – not the anticipated TV – thus forfeiting Silver Sponsorship status, which troubled them and CostCo have withdrawn as a sponsor. Ray was thanked for working on the tickets so they will be available for the members’ meeting and the Chamber event.

Caladesi Exhibit:

First meeting held – productive discussion on design of facility and extent of exhibit.

Peter has arranged meeting here with FPS staff from District and Tallahassee to discuss the project plus the possibility of partial funding via the Partnerships in Parks (PIP) program - 60% from community (us); 40% from State funds for projects over \$100,000.

Benches:

Bob reported yet another firm request plus 3 more possible.

Both sites on new boardwalk are already taken.

Toni asked if benches could be located on park property on the causeway (park extends to first bridge).

Wildflower Garden:

Bob and Wayne applied for a grant in 09 but were not successful. However, Barry reported he has secured funding. A visitor wishes to make a \$2,000 donation in memory of her brother and is delighted at the suggestion that the funds should be used for the creation of the Wildflower Garden; she is also willing to fund ongoing maintenance of the Garden.

Barry stressed that much work would need to be done in preparation – clean / restore part of the greenhouse – collect seeds from park only – build infrastructure of garden etc.

Barry reported that volunteer George Fisher will lead the infrastructure team and Toni Wise will lead the gardening team.

A Wildflower Garden has great potential as a conduit for other fund raising (memorial benches overlooking it; imprinted bricks for retaining wall and walkway...)

Grants:

Committee met with Harry who had come prepared with several excellent recommendations. Options were assessed for priority rating. Agreed that Harry should apply for only 2 grants at one time.

Sponsorship:

Awaiting reply from potential volunteers.

Wills and Trusts:

Barry reminded the Board of the value of setting up a Foundation where the interest could be applied to operations while preserving the (accumulating) capital for long-term projects. Peter and Gabriella to consult the Chamber who are doing something similar; Barry and Sally also to consult their contacts.

Meeting closed at 7.30pm

Next Board Meeting: Tuesday 16 March, 6.30 pm, NC

Island EarthDays Meeting: Thursday 4 March, 6.30 pm, Osprey Center