

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

Chairperson: Barry Metcalfe

Board members present: Shane Bittaker, Wayne Case, Ray Dabkowski, Nancy Dunne, Cynthia Farris, Diane Hood, Melanie Metcalfe, Sharon Meyer, Mike Moran, Gabriella Mullins, Sally Naylor, George Skalkeas, Toni Wise.

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

Apologies: Scott Hood, Peter Krulder, Jacques Marion, Bob Meadows; Ron Geisheimer

Previous Minutes: February 2010 approved.

President's Report: incorporated within agenda.

Treasurer's Report:

George reported that the Accounts have been audited.

Financial report for February circulated by email. Highlights –minimal interest earned by investment accounts; another \$10k set aside for RCNC exhibits' renewal; increase in PayPal activity due to income from IED vendors; retail sales in RCNC doing well.

Park Manager's Report (by Bill in Peter's absence):

- sandbags near former BTH3 unsightly but necessary to protect parking lot until next beach Renourishment.
- relocated BTH should open in April.
- high band radios: should purchase soon.
- toll booth being enlarged and made ADA compliant.
- Peter to be interviewed by Dunedin Channel 15 – will promote IED.
- rescued eagle in rehab – to return soon.

Membership:

Ray reported that he and Diane had sent out 67 renewals (now current until June); plan to process 6 months' at a time. 3 new members joined at Chocolate Buffet.

Diane outlined plan of very attractive programs for the members' meetings in 2010.

Next Gallery Opening / Reception: April 27th.

Nature Center Retail:

Sharon reported that the gold 'Christmas tree' ornaments had been ordered; the non-disposable water bottles were in stock (made in Largo; enviro-friendly); the mint polos were on order.

February sales = \$3,800. Total sales in 2009 = \$33,168. Profit in 2009 = \$14,692 (44.3%). RCNC merchandising is doing really well!

Nature Centre Ops:

Tim reported on success of Rain Barrel workshops (more planned) – congratulations to Sharon and Mary. Newsletter now to be printed, in addition to being posted on website; copies also to be displayed outside the park (Library, Chamber, Boxcar etc).

Island EarthDays:

Next meeting 18 March. Request for help in distributing draw tickets. Barry reported on success with Culligan water: display and water station to be staffed by them. Refillable water bottles to be promoted on website: Barry to liaise with Tim.
Karen contacted FPS webmaster to request IED is posted on FPS's site.

Caladesi Exhibit:

Barry reported: 3 meetings held already, plus one attended by representatives from Tallahassee and District who were most supportive. Energetic working group is providing diverse expertise - working on design and height of structure, creating awareness of project (blog for messages), facilitating donations (donor wall), emphasizing community involvement.

Benches:

In Bob's absence, Wayne reported 3 ongoing enquiries for benches and a swing. Suggestion raised at last FIP meeting – is there space for more benches on the park property which extends from the entrance back towards the first bridge? Mike thought there might be issues with the Civic Trust. Peter to be consulted.

Wildflower Garden:

Much work needed before garden can be created: preparation of green house, clearing and creating site, collection of seeds from Honeymoon etc. Volunteer George Fisher has agreed to lead the prep work of green house and site but will need willing helpers. Toni (plus helpers) to work with Dan about the seeds.

Grants:

3 grants being processed.

Sponsorship:

Volunteers needed.

Wills and Trusts:

Gabriella, Sally and Barry to continue research.

A.O.B.

- Life Lab: Dunedin Middle School and representative from FPS/Tallahassee expressed great appreciation to FIP (via Karen) for funds enabling the students to travel to HISP. Karen invited Board to watch / assist the programs (May 7, 11, 13).
- FIP donation to Caladesi rangers: "Priceless Florida", excellent reference book. (Facility now available for visitors to donate to NC library "in memory" with inscription on a bookplate. Needs to be publicized – newsletter, website.)
- 75th Anniversary of FPS – one of signature events is being held at Highland Hammocks, November 5&6. HH Park unable to provide details. Ray asked if anyone would be interested in reserving a block of campsites (\$22 per night/site).

Meeting closed at 7.40 pm.

For your diary:

Tuesday 23 March: General Members' meeting

Saturday 27 March, 9am to noon: work project – help George clean out the plant nursery to prepare for Wildflower Garden. Meet at nursery (adjacent to Shop area); bring gloves and water.

Thursday 1 April 6.30 pm: meeting for *all* IED folk.