

Friends of the Island Parks Board Meeting 20 April 2010, 8.15 pm

Chairperson: Barry Metcalfe

Board members present: Shane Bittaker, 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, George Skalkeas, Toni Wise.

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

Previous Minutes: March 2010 approved.

President's Report:

Invitation to join the Friends' of Florida State Parks, cost \$100. Agreed to join as a gesture of goodwill.

Treasurer's Report: written report presented by George. Nothing special to note other than financial preparations for Island EarthDays.

Park Manager's Report:

- Dunedin Blue Jays' game, Thursday 22 April. Volunteers invited to help with booth to promote park. May be some revenue but arrangements unclear.
- Innisbrook, Sunday 2 May. FIP invited to have a booth at their Green Event.
- Dunedin Triathlon, Sunday 6 June, in park. Volunteers needed (especially with kayaks). Contact Peter.
- New radios should be purchased within 2 months.

Membership:

Ray reported an increase in membership – now at 238.

Diane announced the Gallery Opening on Tuesday 27 April to coincide with the Members' Meeting. Board members' please to stay to help clean up afterwards. Repairs needed for Ray's printer – agreed to allocate up to \$150.

Nature Center Retail:

Sharon reported gross sales of \$12,400 through end March. Good gross profit of 40%. Astonishing sales of \$1,100 in a single day at IED.

Decided on one design per year for the shirts – easier for inventory.

86 shirts over from IED – agreed to realize the expense now. FIP books are on a cash basis.

Rain barrel workshops – continue to do well.

New book titles – selling very well, especially the children's books.

Book to commemorate 75th Anniversary of FPS, expensive considering only 96 pages, however as gesture of support and goodwill, 3 copies to be purchased (for Caladesi and HISP libraries) plus one for possible sale.

Nature Center Operations:

Request for volunteers to join this committee.

Tim reported: website to include facility to receive donations on-line.
Costly halogen bulbs to be used only for spotlighting artwork – not for general use.
Binoculars need to be replaced – Sharon may be able to arrange discount with West Marine.

Island EarthDays:

- A huge success on Saturday 17 April 2010! Very well attended. Visitors obviously enjoyed the excellent live entertainment, delicious food, “professional” nature exhibits, eco-vendors, children’s activities, the draw...and the sunshine filtering through the palms.

Sunday’s event on 18 April was cancelled because of really heavy rain and flooding. Most vendors and entertainers graciously recognized the FIP fund-raising aspect of the event and either returned payment checks or declined refunds even though payment was offered as a gesture of goodwill.

- Debrief meeting held prior to Board meeting. Melanie to circulate notes.

- **Agreed date for 2011 – April 16 & 17.**

- Opportunity for a couple of new team leaders.

- Friends’ lock-up stores much equipment for IED; request from Nancy to improve protection from dust etc. coming from Café’s workshop.

Post-meeting note from Secretary – in commemoration of the 75th Anniversary, a time capsule is about to be buried at O’Leno State Park. Barry has arranged for an Island EarthDays volunteer shirt to be included in the capsule! The Opening will take place 75 years from now in 2085.

Caladesi Exhibit:

Barry reported that he and Peter have participated in a video conference with FPS staff from District and Tallahassee. Work continues.

Benches:

Bob reported – payment received for 2 benches; to be installed on boardwalk to beach and on Osprey trail.

St Petersburg Times interviewed the bench team recently; editorial anticipated.

Wildflower Garden:

A small but dedicated working group (George and Cathy Fisher, Ron Doyon, Harry Bickford, Barry and Melanie) have transformed one of the nursery areas and cleaned out the (very nasty) sheds.

It is now ready for biologist Dan, Toni and helpers for the raising of Honeymoon-sourced plants for the wildflower garden. Peter and Barry have walked the Garden site; Ray requested to provide aerial photos of site.

Wills, Trusts and Bequests:

- Sally and Barry met with Liza Campa-Flanagan a financial planner who had come prepared, well informed about the FIP....

Advised against a Foundation unless receiving \$\$ millions. Although the idea of a foundation is now dismissed, we will continue to research how to proceed with Wills.
- Discussion about need for donors to know which projects their money would support.

Other Fundraising

- Sally and Barry also met with Janice Buchannan, an experienced fundraiser who came up with numerous suggestions, among them that FIP develop the Honeymoon link with weddings on the island - an exclusive "I do" club – encourage donations from these couples – keep in contact with them with anniversary cards. Discuss with Shane before proceeding.

Grants:

Harry has already submitted three grants request but the Frank E Duckwell grant has already been turned down due to shortage of funds.

A.O.B.

Melanie requested that honorary FIP membership be offered to 3 journalists/editors (at SPT, Dunedin Beacon, C&N group) in recognition of their extensive support via editorials and calendar listings, especially for IED. Experience members of the Board advised that this would be against journalistic ethics and the Board suggested that it would be more appropriate to ask these journalists/editors if we might stay in contact with them by including them in the FIP membership mailings of newsletters and invitations.

Meeting concluded at 9.25 pm

FOR YOUR DIARY:

Tuesday 27 April, 7 pm, RCNC – General Members' Meeting and Gallery Opening
Tuesday 17 May, 6.30 pm, RCNC – next Board Meeting. Ron to chair, Bob to take minutes. Apologies in advance from Barry and Melanie (RVing in Utah).

Melanie Metcalfe,
Secretary
24 April 2010