

Friends of the Island Parks Board Meeting 15 June 2010, 6.30 pm

Chairperson: Barry Metcalfe

Board members present: Shane Bittaker, Ray Dabkowski, Ron Geisheimer, Diane Hood, Jacques Marion, Bob Meadows, Melanie Metcalfe, Sharon Meyer, Gabriella Mullins, Sally Naylor, Toni Wise.

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

Apologies: Cynthia Farris, Scott Hood, Ellen Pfau, George Skalkeas.

Previous Minutes:

Add – apologies from Sharon and Ellen.

Add to Treasurer's Report - request made to IRS for extension to filing date due to unresolved issues with accountant.

Correct Dan's name to Larremore.

With these changes, the May minutes were approved unanimously.

President's Report:

Barry reminded the Board that our mission is to work with the Park Manager to support the Island Parks. Peter (again) said he has an "open door" and anyone is most welcome to bring any issue straight to him for discussion.

Treasurer's Report:

George pre-circulated his report by email. In George's absence, Barry reported that with Sharon's help, the old (and problematic) PayPal account is finally closed. The new PayPal account will have "buttons" for instant payment options (such as paying membership dues on line).

The Treasurer's report was approved unanimously.

Park Manager's Report:

- Dunedin Triathlon held in Park on 6 June – grateful thanks to volunteers from the Friends; donation to Friends' anticipated.

- Pleasure to prepare end of year annual report. Among the many projects the Friends' helped to finance, the most appreciated was the provision of radios – the field staff love them! Over \$7,000 was contributed by the Friends' for the radios.

- Orange Festival, Dunedin, 3 July. Info table about the Island Parks and the Friends' to be staffed by Tim and Laura (AmeriCorps).

- Impact of oil spill. Only Park staff and volunteers from the Park, the Friends and Audubon will be permitted to assist with clearing debris from the beaches within FPS Parks prior to any impact. Their familiarity with the Park and its assets will prevent disturbance of the bird nesting and resting areas and any marine turtle nests.

Membership:

- Ray reported that renewal letters had been mailed. Membership cards will be laminated and detachable from the letter of receipt.

-Thanks to the Friends' for \$107 to repair printer.

-Programs for next Members' meetings: June – gopher tortoises, July – gallery opening, August – ice cream social.

- July's gallery opening is likely to attract a record attendance; invitation cards to include RSVP to NC to monitor numbers for catering etc. Volunteers to assist with parking.

- Diane raised a discussion on the number of exhibiting artists per year and the frequency of gallery openings at Members' meetings suggesting that three might be more appropriate. However consensus was to continue with 4 openings per year to continue to exhibit fresh art and thus bring in more, much needed revenue from art sales. Also the gallery openings attract new people to the RCNC which leads to new members. Suggestion that 1 opening be held on a Saturday in order to free up another monthly Tuesday Members' meeting for a nature program.

Nature Centre – Retail:

Sharon reported on great improvement in system.

Sales in May = \$2084 (reflect end of snowbird season) with 35% margin is very good.

Smart new rack for shirts now installed.

Need new design (one only) for embroidery for Holidays – cardinal with snowberry?

Plastic bags not provided for purchases – no objection from customers.

Nature Centre – Operations:

Tim reported next training of new docents starts 17 June. Barry to speak about the Friends'.

Tim asked the Friends' for funding for a weather station. Ray willing to donate a PC; wooden kiosk to be built by volunteer. Station, screen and software = \$1,500. Agreed to fund it now with the proviso that it be offered as a sponsorship item on the Friends' website (Sharon to set-up "magic" button). Proposed – Tim; seconded – Sharon; unanimous approval.

Need for volunteers for Operations' Committee – Barry has repeatedly asked for vols. from the Board and general membership. Wise to involve members – perhaps join Board later – need for succession planning.

Island EarthDays, 16 & 17 April 2011.

Need source of cooled water dispensers.

Caladesi Exhibit:

Next meeting Monday 21 June, 6 pm, NC.

Benches:

Bob reported check received for swing; request for swing at bird observation site; request for bench at far end of Osprey trail.

Future wildflower garden will have several sites for benches (and many other sponsorship opportunities).

Wildflower Garden:

Need volunteers to lead this project and make progress with its many aspects (such as seed collection within Park) or else it will not happen.

Sponsorship: No progress

Wills and Bequests: No progress

Playground:

First meeting on June 24th. Barry asked that priority be given to an itemized costing.

A.O.B.

- Reminder: Halloween on October 22 and 23.
- Social get together this Friday at Café Honeymoon's Fish Fry.
- Ron to chair next Board meeting on July 20; Bob to take minutes.
- No Board meeting in August.

Meeting closed at 8.25 pm

Melanie Metcalfe

8 July 2010