

Friends of the Island Parks Board Meeting July 20, 2010, 6:30 pm

Chairperson: Ron Geisheimer, Vice President

Board Members present: Toni Wise, Sally Naylor, Scott Hood, Diane Hood, Ray Dabkowski, Gabriella Mullins, Cindy Farris, George Skalkeas

In attendance: Peter Krulder, Bill Gruber, Karen Malo, Tim Marshall

Apologies: Sharon Meyer, Ellen Pfau, Wayne Case, Barry Metcalfe, Melanie Metcalfe, Shane Bittaker, Mike Moran, Bob Meadows, Nancy Dunne

Previous Minutes:

The June minutes were approved unanimously.

President's Report:

No report.

Treasurer's Report:

Due to technical difficulties there was no formal treasurer's report. The report will be completed for the General Meeting next week.

George stated that the First Allied Account is moving to Investor's Capitol. A new Pay Pal account has been established. Federal Form 990-return for exempt organizations is being prepared for the Federal Government. This is an opportunity to promote the Friends and will be shared when filed.

Park Manager's Report:

The final attendance for the past fiscal year:

Honeymoon Island 1,099,616 and Caladesi Island 280,660

The attendance is down throughout the Park Service due to the fee increases, the poor economy, and the bad weather this past winter and the effects of the oil spill. Honeymoon Island is still #1 in attendance throughout the state. The budget for this year will be the same as last year. There have been no significant cuts in park personnel. Tim's Hosp has been approved.

George, Pete and Harry Gross met with Lowe's regarding the \$25,000 Community Foundation Grant for the Caladesi Project. The meeting was very productive.

A new program has been initiated for discounted park passes for active duty military or National Guard members – 25% discount. Disabled vets and surviving spouses will receive a free pass for life.

First Halloween meeting will be held Thursday, July 29th at the Osprey Center. Pete will chair the committee this year. The Halloween Event is scheduled for October 22 and 23, 2010.

There will be a Living Green Expo on October 16 & 17 at the Community Center in Dunedin. Valerie Lane, Sustainability Coordinator for Dunedin, asked if the Park and the Friends could be involved. She is asking for volunteers and the possibility of us having a booth at the event. Pete encouraged us to participate.

Membership: We have 241 members. Thirteen memberships expired in June and they have not yet been renewed. We do have the possibility of renewal of these memberships.

The art opening for Dr. Pat Snair will be held next Tuesday, July 27th ...we are looking for board members or general membership to volunteer to help out on that evening.

Nature Center Retail:

There was no formal report, but the profits look good. Fifty more rain barrels were sold. Lorraine Potocki with Tim's help packed up her exhibit and then became a member of the Friends.

Nature Center Operations:

Touch Screen Weather Station is up and running. The kiosk display case is almost completed for the Weather Station and was built by Ray Poyner, a new member of the Friends.

Ten people completed the volunteer class. Members of this class are younger than members of past classes.

Island EarthDays, April 16 & 17, 2011:

No report.

Honeymoon Island Playground:

The first meeting was held on June 24th. Scott and Diane volunteered to co-chair the committee. Scott will be the liaison with Countryside Country Club and Diane will be the liaison to the Friends. The manager's goals for the new playground were discussed:

- The playground will be accessible and boundless for children in accordance with ADA guidelines.
- Playground will have something for all ages 0-12.
- Shading would be a plus
- Seating within the area for easier supervision of children.

We do not have an estimate of cost for the playground at this time, but know that the amount raised at the Love Fore Tournament will not cover the full amount. Hence, we would like as a committee to speak to Harry Gross regarding grants that would be available and the possibility of obtaining them.

Scott made a motion, seconded by Toni, for the Board to authorize the Playground Committee to initiate a preliminary discussion with Harry Gross relating to grant opportunities which may be available to supplement monies raised by the Love Fore tournament at Countryside Country Club. The motion passed. Pete suggested Barry contact Harry clearing the way for the committee to make direct contact. Gabriella volunteered to contact Harry if Barry is unable to do so while out of the country.

Gabriella also suggested that we may want to approach Kiwanis as a donor for the playground.

Caladesi Exhibit:

A June meeting was held and there was discussion of a Blog being created for this project. The new conceptual plan including an elevator has been sent to Tallahassee.

Cindy Farris met with Dr. Bob Parks of the The Civitan Club (St. Petersburg Chapter), and has been invited to speak to his group regarding the Caladesi Project. She also asked that a Park employee attend and speak on the educational benefits for children in the Park. This group is a good prospect for support of the project.

Wildflower Garden:

A grant for \$2000. is being applied for the garden with the encouragement of Julie Scales. A sum of \$270. has already been donated toward the garden.

A meeting should be called for volunteers/committee willing to work on the garden.

Pete mentioned that the garden should be an interpretative garden used for teaching about the plants of Florida. Pete is not sure at this time if the plants can be sold.

Other Fundraising:

Grants - no report

Sponsorship – no report

Wills, Trusts and Bequests – no report

AOB:

Pete conveyed his thank you to the Friends for the new radios and how incredible they are. “We now have a first class system thanks to the Friends”.

Bill Gruber also extolled the value of the new radios. Caladesi personnel can now communicate with Honeymoon Island and have knowledge of what is happening as it is happening.

Tim informed us that volunteers at the RCNC are developing a trail by the RCNC that will get the visitors involved with learning about the plants and flowers in the area. Also, they are considering teaching more during the rain barrel class including conservation of water and soil and information on plants.

Meeting adjourned at 7:22 pm

Diane Hood
July 21, 2010