

Friends of the Island Parks Board Meeting

September 21, 2010 6:30 pm

Chairperson: Ron Geisheimer, Vice President

Board Members present: George Skalkeas, Sharon Meyer, Ray Dabkowski, Toni Wise, Scott Hood, Sally Naylor, Shane Bittaker, Gabriella Mullins, Bob Meadows, Cindy Faris

In attendance: Peter Krulder, Karen Malo, Gloria Beauchamp, Tim Marshall

Apologies: Ellen Pfau, Wayne Case, Barry Mecalfe, Melanie Metcalfe, Mike Moran, Nancy Dunne, Jacques Marion

Previous Minutes:

The July minutes were approved unanimously.

President's Report:

No Report

Treasurer's Report:

The July and August Treasurer's Reports were approved unanimously.

George reported all the monies in the First Allied Account have been moved to Investors Capitol, balance showing \$86,177. All 5 CD's in the Synovus Account for refurbishment of exhibits will be kept rolling over. The Pay Pal account is for the convenience of customers and monies are moved from Pay Pal into the checking account. The balance in the checking account is \$9,000. from which the HOSP 4th quarterly payment will be made.

The Friends funded Pete for a conference he attended and funded Karen for a conference that she attended.

Park Manager's Report:

October 4,5,6th there will be a Concessionaires Conference held at Honeymoon Island and in Dunedin. There will be an event held in the evening at the Pavilion on October 4th for the attendees.

Negotiations with Bottlenose Production on fees and budget are being conducted. A movie is being made in Clearwater about Winter the dolphin and the stars are Morgan Freeman, Harry Connick and Ashley Judd. The proposal is to close the northern end of the park on October 1,4,5 for a filming location.

On October 28 the Chamber of Commerce after hours meeting will be held at the Pavilion. Shane encouraged those who attend the after hours meeting to be sure to make this one for it will be a very nice event.

The Eagle has returned to Honeymoon Island...a green pine branch was found in the nest. A visitor reported the sighting. The trail close to the nest will again be closed in accordance with government regulations.

A preliminary meeting was held with Pete, Sharon and Joe Garrison of Kiwanis regarding the race on Honeymoon Island on January 9th. Sharon hopes that all of her volunteers will be willing to help out again.

Pete thanks the Friends for funding for his lodging at the Water Ways Conference held in Punta Gorda.

A fiscal recap of Economic Report for District #4:

Honeymoon Island State Park is tops in attendance - 1,119,837 with a profit of \$1.2 million.

Caladesi was in the top 20 parks in attendance – 280,948 in attendance with a profit of \$16,906.

Pete stated that the Halloween event is in need of volunteers and candy donations.

Membership Report:

The number for membership is in the vicinity of 250.

The program for our next General Meeting will be given by Tim on the Geology of Honeymoon Island. An e-mail will go out to the membership announcing the program.

Nature Center Retail:

Sales end of July - \$3373.

Sales end of Aug. - \$2514, however, a rain barrel class was held and 31 people attended and we made an additional \$900. There will be an adjustment on the August sales figure.

We have inventory of \$7600. We have a new design for a shirt which will be sold for the holidays. A white shirt with a cardinal perched on festive greens.

Ernie Simmons has offered to create a design specifically for the RCNC but the production of a shirt must go through Sensing Nature. Sensing Nature buys their shirts from India. Ernie was told that the Friends only buy American made clothing which they have imprinted on by local vendors. He asked if we could make an exception. The board is not in favor of purchasing from abroad. A motion was made by Diane and seconded by Toni that all of the clothing products that we purchase for sale in the RCNC must be made in America. This motion was unanimously approved. Sharon will inform Ernie Simmons of the board's decision and will ask for the design and to pursue other options.

An Ace Vision account has been opened to purchase plumbing supplies for the rain barrel classes...the purchase price of these items is less than wholesaler prices. Sharon, George and Barry have authorization to sign for this account. Go through them if you are purchasing from ACE.

Sharon brought information before the board regarding specially mounted binoculars that she had seen in another Park. These binoculars could be placed on the RCNC deck and at other spots within the park...i.e. the Café or Pavilion. There is the possibility of 5 placement areas on Honeymoon Island and one on Caladesi Island. The cost of these specially mounted binoculars is \$3700.

A proposal was made by Sharon to move forward for procuring sponsorship or funds for special binoculars that would be permanently mounted on the RCNC Deck. One set regular height and one set that would be handicapped accessible. Funding will be sought from the Audubon Society and other organizations. All other donations for the purchase of additional binoculars would go through the Memorial Donation Program. And, at this time there would be no funding by the Friends. The proposal was unanimously approved by the board.

Nature Center Operations:

Tim reported that the RCNC had 2200 visitors in August and 6000 hits on the website, and there were 477 volunteer hours.

A new internet provider will be approached as we have not have service from the current provider in awhile. Tim will approach Verizon for new service.

The RCNC has a new exhibit table/cabinet which will lock and be put into use.

A new exhibit of shells which has been donated by a local school is under consideration.

New book on fund raising has been purchased and all board members are encouraged to read it. Other new books have been purchased and donated to the RCNC.

A motion was made by Diane and seconded by Bob to fund \$160. for a fee for Tim's certification from the National Association of Certification for Interpretation. It was unanimously approved.

Air conditioning went out and was repaired. The Park will be responsible for the repair.

Halloween Event:

Karen reported that volunteers can sign up on-line. The event does need volunteers. Diane handed out donation letters to all board members to try to obtain some candy for the event and bring it to the next meeting. Ray will email the membership asking them to

bring donations to the General Meeting or if they can not make the meeting to drop it off at the Park Office.

Island EarthDays:

Sharon reported that chairs were needed for the IED event and a chair was needed for the vendors. She reported that neither she nor Barry was willing to co-chair the event and that Diane no longer wanted to chair the vendor committee this year. A discussion followed as to how well the event is now run. It was suggested that each chair prepare a job description of their responsibilities for the event. Ron said that a decision must be made by November and volunteers must come forward for chair positions if we are to have this event again as contracts must be signed for entertainment. This will be discussed at the next board meeting and a special meeting for IED should be arranged.

Honeymoon Island Playground:

A meeting was held with Harry Gross at the end of July and he stated that we were in a good position to obtain grants for the playground. He stated that grants should be applied for at least a year in advance. Before we can apply, we must have our design and manufacturer chosen. Often grants can be obtained through the manufacturer. The committee is looking at playground designs, speaking to Parks and Recreation department's within the area, reviewing brochures. The committee will meet on September 30 to tour various playgrounds in the county and set-up meetings with playground manufacturer's reps.

Scott reported that he is involved with the Love Fore the Haven Committee this year at Countryside Country Club planning their event and obtaining the information that will be needed to run our event in 2012. The first meeting at Countryside Country Club for our event should be held in August of 2011. Participation from our members and Park staff will be needed to make this a successful event.

Caldesi Exhibit:

Cindy is in the process of creating a blog with help of the committee. An agreement with Terry Fortner has been reached to use the contents of Yesteryear I lived in Paradise and also of special artwork by Christopher Still.

Design work has not yet been approved by Tallahassee.

Memorial Bench Program:

The program is doing extremely well except for the fact that we are running out of places for the benches. This year 9 benches, 2 swings and 1 picnic table were donated.

In the future, we will have some new areas for placements in the Wild Flower Garden and perhaps the new Playground.

Wildflower Garden:

Toni reported that we are waiting for the design of the garden from Dan the Park Biologist. We will be collecting seeds in a short while.

Other Fundraising:

Grants: George reported that we did not get the Progress Energy Grant; we are still waiting to hear on the Lowe's \$25,000. grant and still waiting to hear on the county grant.

Sponsorship: no report

Wills, trusts and bequests: no report

Sally Naylor reported that she had met with Shane and discussed the idea of creating a data base for a couple's reunion club used for a possible resource for additional funding for the Friends.

AOB:

The committee for nominating next year's board members was formed. Ron will chair and Bob and Sally offered to join the committee. Ron asked members of the board to seek out potential candidates for next year's board and asked the Board to think about election of officers.

Shane was asked to report on the happenings out at the Pavilion. He reported that many events will be hosted by the Café/Pavilion. The first anniversary of the Pavilion is coming up. We thanked him for hosting the Ice Cream Social which unfortunately due to inclement weather had to be moved to the RCNC. Shane's staff was extremely helpful in enabling us to move the event.

Gabriella reported that the Abracadabra Ball will be held by the Historical Society to raise funds for the organization on 10/10/10 and encouraged us to try to attend as the organization has lost all funding from the county.

It is the 75th Anniversary of Florida State Parks on Nov. 6th at Highland Hammock Park on November 6th. Anyone interested in attending, please contact Ray.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm