

Friends of the Island Parks Board Meeting  
Tuesday, July 19, 2011

Meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm by Vice President Ray Dabkowski.  
In Attendance: Jacques Marion, Bob Meadows, Ray Dabkowski, Sharon Meyer, Cindy Farris, George Skalkeas, Gabriella Mullins, Diane Hood, Pat Snair  
Regrets from: Barry and Melanie Metcalfe, Wayne Case, Shane Bittaker, Ron Geisheimer, Mike Moran. Park Staff present: Karen, Tim, Bill, Michael

**Previous Minutes:** Motion was made by Cindy that the minutes from the June meeting be approved, Jacques seconded, unanimous approval.

Motion was made by Pat that minutes from the May meeting be approved, seconded by Sharon, unanimous approval.

**Vice President's Report:** Toni Wise resigned from the Board of FIP. We now have 15 board members; a quorum is now 8 board members. We have a quorum this evening.

Ray reported that he made his report to the Advisory Group concerning the campground proposal on Honeymoon Island. Later that day the Governor announced that the plan for the campgrounds in Florida State Parks had been withdrawn.

The Blue Jays sponsored a game for Honeymoon Island State Park where part of the proceeds of the sales of tickets would be donated to FIP. A table with a display spot lighting the Island was set-up (by Ray, Diane and Scott) within the stadium and tickets were sold for a 50/50 with proceeds also going to the Friends. We made a total of \$338. for this event.

**Treasurer's Report:** Motion was made by Sharon to approve the May Treasurer's Report, seconded by Ray, unanimous approval.

George presented the Treasurer's Report for June. Bob made a motion to approve the June Report, seconded by Jacques, unanimous approval.

George also suggested that a position on the board be created for a Corresponding Secretary to help out with donation letters and other matters pertaining to correspondence which is adding much work for the Treasurer to deal with. This matter will be dealt with prior to the election of new board members.

**Park Manager's Report:** Michael (in Pete's absence) reported that the visitation for the past fiscal year for Honeymoon Island was 1,134,509 which are up 1.3% from last fiscal year. Visitation for Caladesi was 255,742 which is down 9% from last year.

**Membership Report:** Ray reported that we have 6 new members.

**Membership programs:** Ray reported that Lucy Jones of Florida History LLC would be speaking on the archaeological survey that was completed on Caladesi Island at the July General Meeting. The Ice Cream Social will be held at the South Pavilion hosted by Shane for our August General Meeting. We do not yet have a program planned for September. The October General meeting will host an Art Opening for a new artist.

**Nature Center Retail:** Sharon reported that it has been a slow summer in sales. New tee shirts have been ordered in Pink and Sand color. A rain barrel class on Saturday sold 9 barrels.

**Nature Center Operations:** Tim reported there would training on July 25<sup>th</sup> for the cash register and FIP's history from 9-11:30 am. The Florida Master Naturalist program funded training for Interpretive Guide.

Sharon reported she is still looking for funding for scopes on the Island. Also, a rain barrel work day is needed to prepare barrels for classes. Tim will handle while Sharon is out of town. Contact Tim for information.

**Events:** IED - no report – dates of event April 14-15, 2012.  
Halloween Event – volunteers are needed to head up areas. Board members are encouraged to participate as we make a nice amount on this event for our efforts.

**Honeymoon Island Playground:** Some changes have been made to the proposed playground as suggested by Pete. The first meeting of the Love Fore Charity Tournament has been scheduled and a committee has been formed for the fund raising efforts at Countryside Country Club. Harry Gross contacted Publix concerning a grant for the Playground. In order to obtain funding, we must show a monetary commitment to the project. Hence, a motion was made after discussion by the board. Diane made the motion that \$25,000. of our capital expenditure budget be earmarked for the new proposed playground. No funds would be spent from this budget for the project until 2012. Sharon seconded, motion approved.

**Caladesi Exhibit:** Cindy reported that the District has approved the Caladesi Project and now the Parks Department must approve. A presentation will be given by Cindy and the working group at our September Board Meeting. A lot of work is going on with the project and the awareness campaign.

**Wildflower Garden:** Jerry Fletcher, a non board member, will be heading up this committee. He will be bringing in some of his equipment to clear the area for a shell path.

#### **Other Fundraising:**

**Benches:** Bob reported that a picnic table for the RCNC has been approved. He has received money for two more donations.

**Grants:** Harry Gross has been working on grants. Jacques suggested that Harry contact Pepsi as they have been donating funds for playgrounds. Also, The Threshers have a program for local charities. Ray will look into it.

**Sponsorship** – no report

**Wills, Trusts and Bequests** – Pat Snair has been working on. It was suggested by Gabriella that the Sierra sight be checked out for bequests. We don't have to reinvent a program if one already exists that we can mirror.

**Other Business:** Sharon has made arrangements through Terry Fortner for us to have a space at the North Pinellas Historical Museum on October 8, 9-2 for a rummage sale. Friends can donate items and proceeds will go to the Friends. Gabriella offered to collect items for the sale and will help Sharon with this undertaking.

Ray proposed that we not have an August board meeting, seconded by Diane and unanimous approval.

**Next Board Meeting:** Tuesday, September 20, 2011

Bob moved meeting be adjourned, seconded by Diane, unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted, Diane Hood, substitute secretary