

Friends of the Island Parks Board Meeting
Tuesday, June 21, 2011

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Vice President Ray Dabkowski. We do not have a quorum. Regrets from George Skalkeas, Cindy Farris, Barry & Melanie Metcalfe, and Bob Meadows. In attendance were Board Members Diane Hood, Jacques Marion, Pat Snair, Gabriella Mullins, Shane Bittaker, Ron Geisheimer and Ray Dabkowski. Park staff present were Karen, Tim, Michael and Pete.

Minutes: It was pointed out the monies voted in for the Caladesi Project will have to be amended in the budget.

Vice President's report: the Triathlon was very successful.

Park Manager's Report:

Pete said over 850 participated this year's Triathlon. The money generated by the event will be used for scholarships. We will receive a check from the Triathlon Committee for FIP shortly. There will be another Triathlon in the near future.

June 30 will be the first Halloween Meeting. Flyers will be sent out. If interested a being a committee head, please let contact Pete..

CSO liability is covered through the state. However, CSOs could speak to an insurance agent for bonding, umbrella policy and event cancellation insurance. Pete felt we should consider talking to an insurance rep. Jacques stated we had the officers bonded in the past. Gabriella suggested we follow up on this insurance matter.. It might be something that George already handles each year.

The State is putting forth an initiative to provide family camping in more state parks. They would have to change the unit management plan. Tuesday July 5th, there will be a public workshop in Dunedin. July 6th the advisory group will meet. Ray will be the Friend's representative and people from Audubon, RCSC, fishing industry and City Government members from Dunedin will be at this meeting. The proposal was recently announced and will be out in the press this week. More information will follow. Thirty RV and 15 tent sites are proposed for this area. The site will possibly be across from bath house two. Revenue was also discussed. Wildlife and conservation representatives will be attending the meeting. Discussion followed for about 1/2 hour. A special board meeting of FIP is

scheduled for more discussion on Tuesday, June 26, at 6:00pm at the Nature Center.

Treasurer's report was discussed.

Membership Committee: reported two new members since last meeting. The new membership applications are in the works.

Nature Center Retail: just reordered stock and sales are slow. Training will be scheduled in the summer for birding.

Operations: Replaced the Progress Energy sign and will try and expand the Nature Center sales area.

Island EarthDays: The event is scheduled for 14th and 15th April 2012.

Halloween Event: Planning meeting is scheduled for 6:30 pm on June 30th at Osprey Center.

Playground Committee: Publix has shown interest in this charity project. We need to look at the CSO's monetary commitment to the Playground in order to proceed with the grant application as reported by Harry Gross.

Caladesi Exhibit: Cindy Farris will chair meeting sometime in the summer.

Wildflower Garden: Jerry Fletcher will supply heavy equipment to clear the area for the garden and ask for volunteers to do the prep work.

Grants: Harry Gross is working on this area.

FIP will be represented at Orange Festival in Dunedin.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Ron Geisheimer, Substitute Secretary