

Friends of the Island Parks Board Meeting 15 March, 6.30 pm

Board Members present: Chairperson: Barry Metcalfe

Wayne Case, Ray Dabkowski, Cindy Farris, Ron Geisheimer, Diane Hood, Bob Meadows, Melanie Metcalfe, Sharon Meyer, Mike Moran, Gabriella Mullins, George Skalkeas,

In attendance: Bill Gruber, Peter Krulder, Tim Marshall.

Apologies: Jacques Marion, Pat Snair, Toni Wise,

Minutes of last meeting, 15 February accepted unanimously after corrections.

Melanie to send corrected minutes to Tim for posting on www.islandparks.org.

President's Report:

Barry has sent to the Board a report of all the Friends' accomplishments and goals since 2002. We should be very proud of our achievements! Report to be posted on www.islandparks.org and announced at AGM.

Treasurer's Report:

- George guided us through the February 2011 report, which was accepted unanimously.
- Annual audit held. No discrepancies were found.

Park Manager's Report:

- April 2nd, District 4 CSO meeting: details to be confirmed.
- Eagle chicks ready to fly: video posted on website. Peter to contact Fish & Wildlife about permit for webcam; Tim's tech.advisor thought webcam could be possible re. line of sight / parabola. Would need a better internet connection than the Nature Center's.
- American with Disabilities Act: motorized mobility devices now allowed in parks.

Membership Report:

- 22 new members; membership now at 293 (goal of 350 by December).
- Members contacted by email every month but 40 do not have email addresses so cards have to be posted to them.
- Issues pending (see list in February minutes) to be discussed after IED.

Programs:

- 22 March: Joe Malo from Clearwater Marine Aquarium ("Winter" the film star dolphin).
- 26 April: Art opening by Susan McCubbin. Special refreshments justified – ask Shane to provide. Donation jar for wine and beer.
- Suggestion for September – Gerry Rehm (partly responsible for creation of Caladesi State Park). Barry and Ray to contact him.

Nature Centre Retail:

- Sales: \$3,571 (excellent). Inventory reduced. Stock ordered for IED.
- Fixed mount binoculars, weatherproof, 5 year guarantee, \$2,200 + shipping: Friends to purchase one but only as a donor item (to be offered instead of a bench or swing).

Nature Centre Operations:

- February visitors – 4978; website visits -7804; volunteer hours – 495.

Island EarthDays, 16 & 17 April 2011:***Every Board member! Please help with the following:***

- Silent auction: each Board member requested to solicit a donation of at least one item or gift certificate (min. \$25 value) and give it to George.
- Draw tickets now available (see Gabriella) for each Board member to sell.
- Flyers available (see Melanie or NC) for Board members to distribute.

Playground:

Diane reported on committee's latest research on design options and grants. Current projected costs \$120K.

Caladesi Exhibit:

After many months of negotiation, approval has been given by FPS for an interpretive pavilion with elevated viewing platform. Cost approx. \$350,000 for building. Official launch of fund-raising campaign to be confirmed for September/October 2011, with "Black Tie" event.

Working group will have much work ahead but it will be very rewarding. New members interested in *active participation* are most welcome to join the working group.

Benches:

There are no more sites on the beach; any existing bench which becomes washed out will not be put back on the beach. This policy is necessary in order to protect sea turtle nesting sites. However, there are a few attractive sites available inland – along the nature trail in the woods and beside the proposed wildflower garden. Peter requested that the design of benches in the garden should be less rugged looking than current design. Newly available for the donor program – fixed mount binoculars.

Wildflower Garden:

Peter, Barry and Toni met with designer to discuss "hardscape" (paths, fences).

Now need working party to clear site as soon as possible.

Other Fundraising:**- Wills:**

Barry and Gabriella met with Anna Stearns, CPA advisor. Confirmed that FIP is set up legally to accept bequests. Advised to keep it "general" rather than earmark for specific projects. Challenge is how to word the brochure; recommend FIP visits similar websites for ideas (e.g. Sierra Club). Brochure could then be distributed to funeral homes and to lawyers who advise on wills. Bequests can be of an asset (not land) and of any monetary instrument (such as insurance policy) as well as cash and of any \$ amount.

Meeting closed at 8.23 pm.

