

Present: John McPherson, Libby Cagle, Bill Dummitt, Joe Hand, Boyd Kimball, Linda Kimball, Dan Kline, Roger McDaniels, Joe Hand, Debbie Meeks

By phone: Peg Hall, Russ Hall, Debbie Jordan

Guests: none

Friends of the Lower Suwannee and Cedar Keys NWR

December 18, 2019 Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

Prepared by: Debbie Meeks

10am- call to order

- 1- The November minutes were approved.
- 2- Treasurer report- reviewed and accepted by consensus.
- 3- Refuge report- Andrew Gude submitted by email, John McPherson presented
  - a. Sterling Valentine, is back on the Refuge. She can be reached at 757-607-6097 or through the FWC hotline.
  - b. Most staff is off for the holidays. Larry is available by phone, Andrew is out of the country.
  - c. The Refuge is reclaiming roads south of the south entrance.
  - d. Norman "Buzz" and Donna Collier are the camper volunteers on the Levy side (they introduced themselves to the board prior to today's meeting)
  - e. Dusty and Kathy Dusterwinkle are again volunteering on the Dixie side. Dusty fell the day after they arrived and broke his femur.
  - f. Refuge staff is burning on the Dixie side today.
- 4- Annual Meeting
  - a. Kenny will supply the food.
  - b. Debbie Jordan confirmed the speaker(s) will be Gina Kent and possibly Ken Meyer from ARCI on their swallowtail kite research.
- 5- Nominating Committee
  - a. Matt Chatowsky is confirmed
  - b. There are 5 more possibilities
  - c. Peg will put something in the January News Brief asking if any of the regular members are interested in joining the board.
- 6- Committee Reports
  - a. Visitor Contact- Bill Dummitt reported that about half the shifts are covered. He will email the membership asking for more volunteers.
  - b. Interpretive media- Debbie Meeks reported that the hunter rack cards are printed and displayed. Membership- Neon is no longer supporting PayPal integration so we will convert to NeonPay by January 31. Linda Kimball and Debbie Meeks scheduled a conference call with Neon next week to discuss.
  - c. Online Communications- Debbie Meeks reported that we have 43 Meetup members and growing but not many activities scheduled. Meetup renews in February so we need to decide if we want to continue. Peg Hall discussed renovating the website to modernize it, reflect our current focus, and allow Larry and Andrew to make direct submissions. Peg and Debbie would like to pay someone to build a structure that would be maintained and edited by us. John Thalacker might know someone. Peg stated that she enjoys doing the News Brief and doesn't want to quit as long as it still furthers the Friends mission. That said, Peg is talking with one of the potential new board members who has communications experience and might help.

- d. Inventory and Sales- Bill Dummitt reported not much has sold in the office. He is ready to order some new things for the annual meeting. Libby suggested a special Vista related gift for a donation to the project.
- e. Kite Project- Debbie Jordan discussed some fundraising ideas to support the kite initiative including a Giving Tuesday Facebook campaign next year. Kite t-shirts were suggested and also a swallowtail kite flying kite which could be raffled. Joe Hand will pursue the flying kite idea.
- f. Pepper Busting- Roger McDaniels reported they are working on Cedar Key at various locations. He is looking for someone to take over scheduling and volunteer recruitment.
- g. Kayak Initiative- John McPherson reported that all leads are dead and recommended dropping the project.
- h. Advocacy- nothing
- i. Vista- John McPherson reported that Bender & Associates Architects appears to be making good progress with site visits and historical research. A motion to pay Belinda Nettles \$2500 (5% of the grant amount) for her work securing and administering the grant was proposed by John Thalacker and seconded by Libby Cagle. \$1250 will be paid to her now.

#### 7- Open Discussion

- a. Debbie Meeks asked whether minutes should be sent to the board soon after the meeting or with the next meeting's material. The consensus is that the board would prefer to review them soon after the meeting.

Adjourned at 11:50am