

Friends of the Lower Suwannee and Cedar Keys NWR
February 17, 2021 Monthly Board Meeting Minutes
Prepared by: Debbie Meeks

Present: none

By phone: John McPherson, Matt Chatowsky, Ed Dehaan, Bill Dummitt, Denise Feiber, Peg Hall, Joe Hand, Debbie Jordan, Boyd Kimball, Linda Kimball, Ginessa Mahar, Debbie Meeks, Travis Thomas
Guests by phone: Jay Bushnell, Paul Ramey

10am- call to order

- 1- The agenda was adopted by consensus.
- 2- January's amended minutes were presented and accepted by consensus.
- 3- The treasurer's report was presented by Linda Kimball accepted by consensus. A financial committee was created consisting of Linda Kimball, Peg Hall and Mac Cox.
- 4- Refuge Update.
 - a. No report
- 5- Partnership Agreement Update. Peg Hall provided the following update:
 - a. The improvements in the draft version of the Revised Partnership Agreement, taken together with the political and procedural pressure that is being exerted on FWS by Friends groups working together, will make it possible for us to sign the Agreement when it is finalized, probably in May.
 - b. In the meantime, Andrew has established a Friends Volunteer Agreement with us that will permit more normal interactions until we can see the final revised Agreement and hopefully sign it.
 - c. Peg and John T. replied to a Call for Comments on February 8.
- 6- Annual Meeting
 - a. Peg outlined the flow of the Zoom meeting.
 - b. Joe asked if the new butterfly shirts will be ready. They are expected before the meeting.
- 7- Project Reports and Discussions
 - a. Visitor Contact
 - i. Bill had nothing to report, hopefully the program will start in the Fall.
 - b. Interpretive Media and Membership
 - i. Debbie M. reported that 2 people joined at the \$100 level and a couple renewed at higher levels. She expects an overall drop in memberships this year since we are not having an in-person annual meeting.
 - ii. Evaluations of replacement software for Neon is ongoing, there are only 2 in our price range. Testing will resume after the annual meeting.
 - c. Online Communications
 - i. Peg submitted a written report.
 - ii. The annual meeting announcements Peg sent are being opened at a high rate, hopefully we will have good attendance.
 - iii. The Dixie Mainline road closure post on Facebook reached many more people than our normal posts.
 - d. Inventory and Sales
 - i. The butterfly shirts were ordered, Barbara has been volunteered to fulfill butterfly shirt orders (she doesn't know it yet).

- ii. Denise asked about reordering a few luna shirts. Debbie J will see if we can order small quantities from Aesthetic Print & Design.
 - iii. There was discussion about charging a reduced price for pick-ups and deliveries. For now, we will leave it at \$25.
 - iv. Debbie M will write a tutorial on fulfilling an order using Weebly.
 - e. Kite Project
 - i. Debbie J. reported that Suwannee is starting his journey north.
 - ii. Debbie J. signed up for the Suwannee Arts Festival. There was a little discussion about what inventory to bring.
 - f. Pepper Busting
 - i. Ed reported that Busting is getting a good number of volunteers. They are working various spots.
 - g. Trails
 - i. No report
 - h. Advocacy
 - i. Jay reported that there appears to be an attempt to repeal the toll road.
 - i. Vista
 - i. John M. will make copies of the Bender report and distribute them to stakeholders.
- 8- Open Discussion
 - a. Debbie M asked if John M and Joe had tried using Dropbox to gather all the board meeting reports in one place. [In an earlier meeting Joe mentioned that it can be hard to find them as email attachments.] There was discussion about the need to save anything other than the minutes.
 - b. Ed asked if the Zoom meetings could continue after the pandemic need has passed. There was discussion about the benefits including better attendance, more environmentally friendly and time savings. Peg will put it on the March agenda.

Adjourned at 10:56 am.