

Present: John McPherson, Libby Cagle, Dan Kline, Joe Hand, Debbie Meeks

By phone: Debbie Jordan, John Thalacker

Guests: Frank & Mandy Offerle, Belinda Nettles, Greg Lang, Peg & Russ Hall, Richie Smith (by phone)

Friends of the Lower Suwannee and Cedar Keys NWR

September 19, 2019 Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

Prepared by: Debbie Meeks

10am- call to order

- 1- Vista. Presentations by two architectural preservation firms, Bender & Associates Architects of Key West and Heritage Architectural Associates of Miami, who would write documentation of what exists, the history of the site, a plan to conserve the structures, recommendations for adaptive reuse as a visitor center and cost estimates.
- 2- Board evaluation and discussion of the two presentations.
- 3- Motion- Libby Cagle moved to accept the Bender application with the condition that John McPherson asks them to come down to the \$50,000 grant funding cost but if they will not then the Friends will pay the difference. Seconded by Dan Kline. Unanimously passed.
- 4- Motion- John Thalacker moved that John McPherson working with Belinda Nettles can sign a contract with Bender without presenting it to the board. Seconded by Joe Hand. Unanimously passed.
- 5- Treasurer report- reviewed and accepted.
- 6- Refuge report by Andrew Gude-
  - a. Corrigans Reef restoration ideas using a new system, not quarried limestone.
  - b. A possible new floating shore bird nesting platform in the cove at Snake Key.
  - c. Volunteer forms now must be signed annually for those doing work such as pepper busting or visitor contact.
  - d. Sterling Valentine, the new law enforcement officer, will be on the job at the end of the month.
  - e. A virtual reality tour of the Seahorse Key light house and other Refuge areas is being discussed in partnership with the Cedar Key Visitor Center and the Nature Coast Biological Center.
- 7- In the interest of time, many of the committee reports were skipped.
- 8- Greg Lang presented his 'door hanger' idea. It is a rack card with a friendly message for hunters and links to online Refuge resources. His idea was positively received with a comment that placing them on parked cars could add to littering so person-to-person exchanges are preferable.

Adjourned at noon