

## **Friends of the Lower Suwannee & Cedar Keys National Wildlife Refuges**

### **May 16, 2023, Board Meeting (via Zoom) Minutes**

**Attending:** President Ginessa Mahar, President-elect Denise Feiber, Past President Debbie Meeks, Secretary Paul Ramey, Peg Hall, Bill Dummitt, Denise Feiber, Debbie Jordan, Ron Kamzelski, Boyd Kimball, Linda Kimball, Dan Kline, John McPherson, John Thalacker, Pete Tirrell, Jeri Treat, Scott Wright.

**Representing the Refuge:** John Stark

**Not attending:** Refuge Manager Andrew Gude, Barbara Woodmansee

**Guest:** Jay Bushnell

President Ginessa Mahar called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

### **Approval Items**

1. The meeting agenda (modified) was approved unanimously by voice vote (Meeks/ Ramey).
2. It was approved unanimously by voice vote (Wright/ P. Hall) to table approving the March and April meeting minutes to allow board members time to review more closely. The plan is to approve by email before the June meeting.
3. Treasurer's report – Treasurer Linda Kimball – As of April 30, 2023, the checking account balance is \$2,134.04. The money market account balance is \$57,390.20, which includes \$30,000 in the restricted fund set aside for Vista. Including \$110 in petty cash, the Friends' total checking/savings and assets is \$59,634.24.  
The treasurer's report was approved unanimously by voice vote (Ramey/ Meeks).

### **Refuge Update** – President Ginessa Mahar for Manager Andrew Gude

-Andrew's report emailed to Ginessa and uploaded to DropBox and information items are also summarized in the News Brief.

### **Discussion Items**

#### **-Mobile Trailer**

Ginessa suggested we need a more specific motion than what the board approved during the March meeting to move forward with the Mobile Trailer.

Discussion followed. It looks like an outreach trailer would cost somewhere between \$4,000 and \$15,000 and it may help to have a subcommittee to move more quickly and then bring it back to the board. It was moved and seconded (Mahar/Feiber) that we establish a subcommittee to approve the potential purchase of a trailer and bring a recommendation to the board for a vote if a suitable trailer is found. Scott said as worded, he wasn't sure a subcommittee would really help and also asked about the purchase timeline.

After further discussion, the first motion was withdrawn, and it was moved and seconded (P. Hall/ Feiber) that we establish a mobile trailer committee to make a recommendation to the board at a future time. Passed unanimously by voice vote and subcommittee members are: Debbie Meeks, Bill Dummitt, Linda Boyd and Ginessa Mahar. John McPherson said he could be available to go and see a potential trailer when one is found.

Another motion (Meeks/ McPherson) was approved unanimously by voice vote to set a spending cap of \$6,000.

#### **-Vista Visual Aids**

It was unanimously approved by voice vote (Mahar/ Meeks) to create a subcommittee to put together visual aids to be used to promote the Vista Project. Committee members are Debbie Meeks, Ginessa Mahar, Denise Feiber and Jay Bushnell.

#### **-Summer Solstice Planning**

Shell Mound tours will be given, and an archaeo-kayak trip will begin at 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 24, with our partner, the Florida Paddling Trails Association. The Association asked about insurance and Ginessa said she would check with Nigel Rudolph with FPAN and we can also check on possible coverage through our Friends insurance. Scott Wright volunteered to help man the table.

#### **-Review: Junior Ranger Program**

The Old Town field trip went well. May need to be streamlined for future visits due to demand. John Stark said 75 students is a perfect number and the experience for the students was well-rounded. Denise volunteered to follow up with Sue Colson about the Cedar Key School student visit.

#### **-Law Enforcement Advocacy**

There was much discussion, but it was ultimately tabled because Andrew was not present. Scott volunteered to help Jay collect additional information, including from other Friends groups.

## **Reports**

#### **-Governance**

Ginessa thanked John McPherson: We're now fully insured! Dropbox links have been sent out to make it easier for board members to access and share information.

#### **-Outreach**

Debbie Meeks – Friends was invited to table at the Alachua County Climate Fair on June 2 from 5-8 p.m. Ginessa volunteered to help. Debbie plans to make our maps more phone-friendly this summer. Citizen Science was also mentioned as a good opportunity to involve more people in the Refuge.

#### **-Communications**

Peg updated everyone on the News Brief, website and social media stats.

**-Refuge Support**

Scott mentioned Barbara Woodmansee's butterfly report, which includes a new species recently discovered on the Refuge.

**-Finances**

Linda had to leave early.

President Ginessa Mahar adjourned the meeting at 12:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary Paul Ramey