

MINUTES- FAVOR Board Meeting-March 12, 2008

- Meeting called to order at 1:10 p.m.
- Board members present Jay Bushnell, Jim Hess, Joan Stephens, Margy VanLandingham. -Non-board members present Donna Bushnell, John Kasbohm, Shannon Ludwig.
- Because there was **not a quorum present, no official business could be conducted.**
- Minutes from the March 7 planning meeting were reviewed.
- Joan presented Treasurer's Report and Budget Proposal for 2008. Joan will research actual amounts and items purchased on the 2007 budget so that the information will be available before voting on the budget when a quorum is present. IRS forms will be completed and filed in May.
- Margy reported that there are 106 current members. She presented a membership that included 173 current and former (2005, 2006, 2007) members. She stated that there had been requests for the membership list but said that the membership list would not be made available to other persons or organizations.
- There was good feedback regarding OPEN HOUSE. Margy read a complimentary letter from a Pennsylvania couple that also included a donation. John made some comments and/or suggestions. He would like to see a history of Refuge and/ or Favor included in some way; he would like more participation from the town of Suwannee and Dixie County areas (perhaps an event can be held there when River Trail is opened); and he would like it to be more of a community event (more participation from non-members, community officials?).
- The Spring Arts Festival is in Cedar Key April 12 and 13. The FAVOR booth will be set up and Margy will organize 4-hour shifts of people to man the booth. Jim Hess has refurbished canopy for our booth and will research canopies used at the Festival by other organizations and artists.
- Margy shared a calendar of activities and events for 2008. The possibility of hosting a Youth Fishing Day on April 19, Earth Day, at Shell Mound pier was discussed. Jim and Shannon will investigate this suggestion and attempt to coordinate community resources to make a small event happen this year. Joan Stephens agreed to write a press release if the event occurs.
- A Gopher newsletter will be published the last week of March to include information about the April Nature Walk; Arts Festival; and Youth Fishing Day.
- Donation to the National Wildlife Refuge Association was discussed. Including a history of the Refuge and/or FAVOR when the brochure is updated was discussed.
- Land Acquisition was discussed. Margy stated that she has informational materials and would be glad to set up a meeting with interested parties to share them.
- John stated that he would try to set up a visit to the Whopping Cranes at Chassashowitzka NWR next year for Board Members.
- Margy pointed out that a Cedar Key's Vice Mayor name was misspelled. The correct spelling is Vanessa Edmunds. Please make the correction in your list.

We will make this correction for the general membership in our next communication.

-Margy brought to the attention of the Board a lawsuit regarding elimination of hunting in National Refuges. Jay pointed out the importance of hunting/fishing revenue via licenses and gear. This revenue has been and is vital to conservation. In the early 1900s, it was hunters and fishermen that lobbied Congress to develop regulations to protect the game now enjoyed by outdoors folks.

-Jay will poll board members on how to avoid a lack of Quorum in the future. Obviously, if we are to be successful, we have to have a By-Law leg from which to operate.

-Meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m. Respectfully submitted by Donna Bushnell