

Friends Board Meeting Minutes 6/19/2019

Submitted by Bill Dummitt

Board Members present: John McPherson, Debbie Meeks, Bill Dummitt, Joe Hand, Bob Lewis, Dan Kline, John Thalacker and Debbie Jordan by phone.

Other members: Jay Bushnell, Russ Hall, Peg Hall

Refuge staff: Andrew Gude

The meeting was called to order by President John McPherson at 10 am. Minutes of the previous meeting and agenda were approved by acclamation.

The treasurer's report was routine except for the expenditure approved by the board by email for tagging a swallowtail kite.

Refuge Report- Andrew Gude

YCC is in its second week. They are scraping and painting all the yellow metal gates on the refuge. YCC from Crystal River is also helping.

Sterling Valentine is here for a weeklong interview for LE officer as a lateral move.

Larry is taking FWC regional management to Seahorse Key.

LE will transition to a separate chain of command rather than report to refuge management.

Snake Key birds doing well. Most birds have fledged. Still no birds at Seahorse.

The hunt brochure for the upcoming seasons has been finalized. It is more aligned with state regulations.

One refuge visitor called enough people in Federal and State government to get action on the refuge's open LE position.

July 5 evening is the ceremonial lighting of a new lens for the Seahorse Key lighthouse.

July 6- John McPherson proposed that Friends set up an informational tent on the beach during open house. Andrew was supportive of this idea. Time would be 9-3. Debbie will post on meetup. Low tide is 1.5 ft and therefore should not be a problem.

YCC has river trail maintenance on its agenda. John Thalacker asked about filling holes created by root and stump grinding.

There was a brief discussion of butterflies and a butterfly brochure.

There is hurricane funding available- Andrew hopes for repaving Shell mound parking lot, more boardwalks on trails, in-kind replacement of Shell Mound fishing pier.

Vista- John McPherson-

A letter from Belinda Nettles was circulated, discussing the grant application for Vista and proposing that she and John McPherson continue as co-managers as per the grant application. There was a brief discussion of whether that was appropriate considering that she never completed her report on Vista. John felt that leaving her as co-manager would work out.

Visitor Contact- Very few volunteers available this summer.

Interactive Media- Debbie Meeks- Shell mound panels are here and need installation.

Online activity- Peg Hall-

Most popular articles in the News Brief were Shell Mound, Snake Key Rookery, Joan Stephens death, Swallowtail Kite, LE update. 3200 website page views in past month.

Merchandising- Bill Dummitt- little activity in summer. We have plenty of inventory at the present time.

Bob Lewis discussed kayak events, ad hoc committees, and reviewed the condition and needs of the recently acquired pontoon boat.

Jay Bushnell discussed the proposed new highway through NW Florida and provided a book review of "Asymmetric Politics."

After a discussion of our password policies and lack thereof, John Thalacker moved to restrict sensitive passwords to current officers and others who have board approval for access. The motion passed by acclamation.

The meeting was adjourned at 12 pm.