

Minutes
Board Meeting
Friends of the Lower Suwannee & Cedar Keys National Wildlife Refuges
Thursday, April 16, 2015

Present:

Board Members: Greg Lang, Kit Lane, Debbie Meeks, Maria Sgambati, Bill Dummitt, Ed DeHaan, John McPherson, Roger McDaniels, Jamie Jarrels, Bill Kilborn, Libby Cagle, Peg Hall, Bob Hudson.

Refuge Staff: Pam Darty.

Guests: Amy Gernhardt, Ann Lindgren, Donna Thalacker.

1. The meeting was convened at 10:00 a.m. by Greg Lang, President.
2. Approval of Minutes. **Motion** by Bob Hudson to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on March 19, 2015, with change: Cycling Tour brochure is a work in progress; it is not completed as stated in the minutes. **Second** by Roger McDaniels. Passed by unanimous vote.
3. Cedar Key Arts Festival- Friends Booth: Greg Lang thanked all the Friends volunteers who helped man the booth, and provided the following financial recap: Donations: \$41. Sales: \$459. Greg stated that he thought the booth was a success with a great deal of information given out.
4. Refuge update. Pam Darty reported the following:
 - A. Another staff person leaving: George, heavy equipment operator, leaving for Loxahatchee with a promotion. There will be some big staff challenges for the next year, and the Refuge will need volunteers to help out. Bob Hudson suggested a meeting between Refuge staff and Friends board as to how Friends could help. The Board agreed, and Bob will make contact with Andrew Gude about setting up a meeting.
 - B. A new sign has been erected at Seahorse Key.
5. Committee Reports:
 - a. Treasurer's Report. Libby Cagle: Written report attached, and she reviewed. The way in which funds were accounted for at the annual meeting worked well. Doing well with high income and low outflow.

- b. Communications. Peg Hall reported that the Communications team met this morning, with the following results:
- (1) The Committee would like to prepare a presentation that discusses the Refuge and Friends organization that could be presented to hotels, library, business groups, civic clubs, etc. Information in the presentation would include the difference between a Park and a Refuge; what can people do on the Refuge; a description of the Refuge including size, roads, history, etc; and looking to the future with regard to expansion, invasives, etc.
 - (2) The Committee recommends the purchase of a vertical flag Friends banner for use at festivals, etc. The Board agreed that this would be a good idea.
 - (3) The Committee is working on a variety of brochures, including the general Friends brochure; the new Turkey Foot Trail brochure; paddling trails (give-aways distributed to 3 libraries on Dixie side); Dixie Mainline brochure; cycling brochure for Dixie County side; Salt Creek; and Tram Trail.
 - (4) Communications Report attached and Peg reviewed the highlights: Ibis just went out and 54 have opened. Video posts are very popular on FaceBook. Website is getting many page views and unique visitors. Posts on FaceBook are helpful.
- c. Invasive Species. Roger McDaniels thanked Ed DeHaan for filling in while he was gone. The group went to Dennis Creek last Tuesday and found several clumps that were cleared out. It is near the end of pepper busting season so will be winding up near the end of this month. Roger has submitted another grant request for the next season. Greg Lang noted that the seeds are edible, and Maria Sgambati reported that DEP was interested in the fact that we have a pepper busting program. Volunteers are needed for the fall and it was suggested making a presentation to the RV park winter visitors.
- d. Inventory. Carmelo Echevarria was absent so a report will be provided at the next meeting.
- e. Membership. Marci Wilcox provided an updated membership list: 230 members compared to 264 at end of last year. One new life member: Dennis and Beth Ricker who live in Pennsylvania. It was suggested that people who have not renewed in 5 years should be deleted from the mailing list. The Board agreed, but should send one last reminder before removing them.

6. Initiatives update.
 - a. I-naturalist training will take place on April 25th, 2:30-4:30pm at the FWC Marine Lab, Cedar Key.
 - b. Guests Amy Gernhart and Ann Lindstrom discussed the artist in residence project on Seahorse Key and asked for the Friends help in getting the word out. The Friends Communications Team agreed to assist.
 - c. Seahorse Key Summer Science Camp scholarship proposal: Maria submitted a written proposal, attached, and described the program and proposed that the Friends consider funding half a scholarship (\$375) for a student from either Dixie of Gilchrist County. **Motion** by Bob Hudson to fund the proposal and allocate the funds (\$375) from the appropriate area of the budget. **Second** by Jamie Jerrels. After questions and discussions from the Board the Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.