

Friends of the Lower Suwannee and Cedar Keys National Wildlife Refuges
September 19, 2018
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am. Attendees were:

Board members: Dan Kline, Jim Hoy, Russ Hall, Linda Tyson, Bob Lewis, Bill Dummitt, Roger McDaniel, Libby Cagle, Debbie Meeks

Guests: Peg Hall, Belinda Nettles

Refuge: Andrew Gude

Refuge Report (Andrew Gude)-

The refuge still has no law enforcement officer, no idea how long this situation will last.

Seahorse Key has a new lens for the lighthouse and a solar power generation system with a storage battery, from funding raised by NCBS.

Archery season is opening next week on the refuge, the first of the series of hunting season openings.

Poaching of alligators along the nature drive is an issue.

Chris Topping has purchased the private portion of Hog Island- the rest of the island is refuge property.

Vista- Belinda called in and reported on her application for a \$50,000 grant from the state Division of Historical Resources. This would cover a structural assessment for all the buildings on the property and cost estimates for repairs. This grant has a good chance of being funded and is currently #45 on the list of applications. Funding would start in July of next year.

Visitor contact- Peg reported that she will attempt to schedule the desk from 10-1 every day during October. She will continue to coordinate until Kit arrives.

Communications- Report attached. Debbie proposed that instead of our glossy advocacy brochure, that we use a laser printed single page membership appeal. Linda suggested enclosing that document in the glossy brochure.

Committee to Develop a Policy on Contributions and Recognition of Business Partners- Bill reported that the committee has met once and will meet again before the next meeting, planning to have a draft policy proposal by the October meeting.

Board vacancies- the group voted to elect Boyd and Linda Kimball to the two open positions on the board. They will fill 2-year terms that began this year.

Inventory- new Luna and Trees t-shirts are in. The average cost of t-shirts is nearly \$11 now. Bill recommended that we charge a flat \$20 for all new t-shirts and close out the remaining inventory of old designs for \$5, starting immediately.

The group discussed purchase of new earrings- these have been popular items in the past. The group (specifically the female members present- all the men abstained) reviewed the designs available from Wild Cotton, selected 9 designs and budgeted a maximum of \$500. Peg agreed to place an order immediately to facilitate arrival for Seafood festival.

The group also discussed hat designs and pins. Bill will review available designs and will call on other members who participated in the discussion to help. The board will get a proposal to approve (or not) by email.

Rotating exhibits by Santa Fe students- Linda brought in many examples of exhibits on area flora and fauna made by her past students. The group agreed that these were excellent for our visitors to see, and that we should display some of them, starting as soon as possible. The possibility of using the education building was discussed but no final decision was made. Some exhibits are small enough to display in the front desk area. Some were stored in the education building short term.

Butterfly garden- Roger requested up to \$750 in funding from Friends for renovation of the butterfly garden. The proposal was voted on and passed by acclamation.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 pm.