

Friends of Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
October 3, 2009

The Board of Directors of the Friends of Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge (“Friends Board”) met on Saturday, October 3, 2009 in the Conference Room at the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge (“Refuge”).

Attendees: President Steve Horowitz, Treasurer Herb Teitler, Director Tom Poulson, Director Joan Davis, Director Jay Brenner, Director David Lurie, Director Judy Colvard, Director Lance Warley, Director Mitch Rosenheim, Director Elinor Williams and Secretary Kim Edoff. David Underwood attended representing the Refuge.

Absent were Vice-President John Marshall, Director Stephanie Wright, Director Cynthia Plockelman, and Director George Berman.

The meeting opened at 9:00 am. A quorum was established.

Steve Horowitz opened the meeting by asking for a motion to approve the minutes from the September 8, 2009 meeting. **Joan Davis moved to approve the minutes from the September 8, 2009 meeting. Mitch Rosenheim seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Horowitz discussed the term limits for Board of Directors. Unless appointed into an open position, Board members are elected for a three year term. The five members whose terms are expiring in January 2010 are: Steve Horowitz, John Marshall, Herb Teitler, Tom Poulson, and Elinor Williams. Herb Teitler has elected not to run again. David Lurie has been training with Mr. Teitler to step into his role in January. A question arose around the need for a nominating committee. The discussion was tabled until further in the meeting.

David Underwood, representing the Refuge, discussed the Exhibit Grand Opening work to date. The Thursday, October 15, VIP reception will include valet parking, presentations of the new movie, and a keynote speech by Sam Hamilton, Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife. The Saturday, October 17, public opening will include an opening ceremony from 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. and activities from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. including cypress swamp and marsh trail tours, a prescribed fire, helicopter display, law enforcement demonstrations, children’s environmental programs, geocaching, ham radio broadcast, junior ranger programs, etc. Trolley service will shuttle people from the boat ramp parking area to the Visitor Center. The exhibits are scheduled to be completed by October 10 with the Visitor Center reopening by Thursday, October 15. When all the details are complete, flyers will be produced for the day of the event including a map and a schedule of activities.

Board members had questions about the assigning of responsibilities for October 17 and recommended that appropriate communication occur between Refuge Staff and volunteers.

Mr. Horowitz reported that a new fee booth employee (Eduardo) has been recently hired and that the Refuge website will be changed/upgraded shortly.

Future Board meeting dates include:

- Tuesday, November 3, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.
- Saturday, December 5, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.
- Tuesday, January 5, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, February 2, 2010 at 2:00 p.m.

The Florida Friends Conference will be all day on Friday, January 8, 2010 at the Refuge. The Friends Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 24, 2010 at 2:00 p.m.

Lance Warley reported that the photo contest preparation is on-track. They will be designing their own website for photo entries this year and are currently discussing the need for one gallery (just the winners) or two galleries (both winners and all entries). Mr. Horowitz indicated that there is one wall in the Visitor Center which is solely dedicated to displaying photos. Mr. Warley also reported that the newsletter will be 12 pages and 8 of the 12 are designed and laid out. He is waiting on 3 articles from Refuge staff and then the newsletter will be complete.

Mr. Horowitz reported that the Turtle River Times (Refuge newsletter) will be mailed shortly. It is awaiting a final proofreading and then it will be printed and shipped. The Friends still want to insert the photo contest calendar into the newsletter before it ships.

Herb Teitler gave the financial report. We currently have around \$14,000 in our checking account and our CD balances remain stable. We have approximately \$3,700 that we will be paying for the grand opening as well as other outstanding invoices. The Board liability insurance has been renewed. Miriam Walling, our accountant, continues to do our bookkeeping as well as covering the cost of postage for our membership mailing.

Elinor Williams reported that we had a lot of membership renewals come in after the Gator Tales was shipped and that we received positive feedback on the issue. Upcoming canoe trips were also discussed. Jeff Kramer will be leading all trips and will probably start up again regularly by November 1.

Tom Poulson reported that the tri-fold brochure project is still in process. Discussion occurred around the cost/benefit of the tri-fold brochure vs. spending our funds in more beneficial ways. If we continue on the tri-fold brochure path, high resolution pictures will be obtained from Mr. Warley.

Mitch Rosenheim indicated that the River of Grass canoe planning committee work for the Everglades Coalition Conference is progressing. On January 7, the flotilla of canoes and kayaks will be greeted by local officials at Grassy Waters Preserve.

Joan Davis updated the Board on Phase II of the River of Grass. The dam on the Tamiani Trail is going to be moved up 4 feet. See her upcoming article in the next issue of the Gator Tales.

Mr. Horowitz discussed our previous annual contribution to the National Wildlife Refuge Association (NWRA) of \$1,500. We recently received a letter asking for a contribution this year as well. **Tom Poulson moved to approve an expenditure of \$1,500 for a contribution to the NWRA. Jay Brenner seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion was approved unanimously.**

The Board discussed the Palm Beach County Visitors map and guide and our \$750 payment last year to be included in it. The guide is at several hundred kiosks around the area. Impact assessments are difficult to do. We know our website activity has increased but whether or not it is due to our inclusion in this guide is unsure. The fee this year to be included is \$800 with the addition of an added mobile marketing component. Mr. Horowitz indicated that we would correct any mistakes in our ad and we will include that we have new exhibits. **Mr. Rosenheim moved to renew our inclusion in the Palm Beach County Visitors guide at a cost of \$800. Dave Lurie seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion was carried.**

Mr. Horowitz discussed the possibility of offering lifetime memberships as a membership option. Ms. Williams will research for the next meeting.

Mitch Rosenheim and Joan Davis will constitute our nominating committee for the upcoming election. They will be looking to find a replacement for the Board position to be vacated by Herb Teitler.

David Lurie moved to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Edoff
October 3, 2009