

Friends of Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
March 23, 2010

Attendees:

Joan Davis,
Steve Horowitz
David urie
John Marshall
Cynthia Plockelman
Tom Poulson
Mitch Rosenheim
Elinor Williams
Rolf Olson
Pauline I. Stacey
Marta Isaacson
Sheila Calderon
Jeff Kramer
Kay Larche
Kay Gates

I. Call to order Steve Horowitz, President

A. Introduction of new Board Members: Kay Larche, Pauline Stacey, Marta Isaacson

II. ADOPT MINUTES

A. Motion to accept February 27, 2010 Board minutes

George Berman motioned

2nd by Joan Davis

Approved

III. D.C. Fly – in – Sheila Reported

̄ A. Meeting beneficial:

- 1) meet refuge people from all over the country
- 2) lobbying for money as a group

- Met with Senator Bill Nelson, Alcee Hastings and Ron Klein
- Nancy Marshall asked for funding for several items when meeting with legislators
- Asked for \$5m per year for exotics control
- Gave information to legislators as to why these funds are needed.

B. Federal Initiatives:

- 1) Removal of invasive plants
- 2) Water quality

- Sheila suggested that one should be sure that they have a business card to hand out to legislators in the future.
- **Steve**: Friends National Conference in Washington D.C. every other year, (Steve and Judy attended last year) so no representation on the off year, so this is why Sheila went this year.

IV. **Rolf Olson**, Assistant Refuge Project Manager, reported

- exhibit work to finish work repairs on exhibits on April 19th
- April Dirty Jobs filming
- April video on exotics
- Environmental Immersion day - high school students

Much discussion on boardwalk repairs/construction with Rolf

V. **By-laws**

- **Steve** handed out hard copies
- **Pauline** volunteered to put bylaws in electronic form.
- **Steve** motioned that Pauline be elected secretary and all seconded
- **Mitch** will send out suggestions on bylaws he worked on (electronically)

VI. **Photography Contest**

- **Steve** – reported on Lance's slide show for. Gave CD's to Elinor and George
- Nancy Marshall asked David Underwood to show slide show for Sunset Safari by ARMF on March 27, 2010.
- Winners received checks and ribbons at March 22 ceremony in each of 6 categories:

\$50 3rd place

\$75 2nd place

\$100 1st place

\$250 for Grand Prize

- Much discussion on sale price for winner pictures ensued.
- In the past we sold prints just matted, Steve asked what it would cost to frame suggested selling \$40.
- George suggested Sell at \$50
- **Sheila** motioned
- **Dave** seconded
- **Lance** will take orders for prints, run prints, and drop off to refuge.

- Lance wants to put out the next Gator Tales by the end of June. Currently sent out two times per year, December & June.
- We need to send articles to Lance by May 1st –
- Lance encouraging all BOD to write an article for June issue.

VII. Envirothon

- April 8th High school students – lead article may be this event.
- BOD is invited on April 8th 10:-10:30 AM VIP tour students complete 45 minute tour – lunch, etc.

VIII. Southeast Region Awards

- Awarded in Atlanta in May 13, 2010
- Regional Directors Volunteer of the Year Award = Nancy Marshall (nominated by Sylvia Pelizza)
- Nick Aumen - NPS employee – Service Award (nominated by Rolf Olson)

IX. Everglades Coalition

- **John** reported on EVCO elections and budget concerns, and non-compliance with solicitations and regulations.
- **Steve** pointed out voting members of BOD Friends for EVCO. – Pauline Representative and Tom Alternate. Voting at the Annual meeting March 26, 2010.

X. Jay Brenner Memorial Fund

- has over \$3200
- Family will fund any additional funds needed for Cypress Swamp Boardwalk Public Education Program.
- New York Mets (one of the Brenner children works for them) made a large donation

XI. Miscellaneous

- **Dave** reported on Gift Shop Finances with sales between \$1500- \$2000 per week.
- Graphics designer Cher Columbus and Elinor select pictures for our calendar.
- Crystal River SE Regional Conference April 9-11: Host Chapter is Chassahowitzka led by Lace Blue-McLean. Mitch and Marta are volunteer reps from Friends. Atlanta requested that ARM gift shop manager attend. Harvey Eisen is the manager participating in Gift Shop workshop.
- Visitor Guides – **Tom** requested suggestions for new guide. Tom is looking for Frank Lohan, the former artist. Guide is approximately 6 years old.
- Nov 1st is the deadline to have new copy in the gift shop.
- Kay Larche suggests that volunteers need communication between staff, visitors and the Board of Directors.

- She has started for the past three months a new project of keeping a record from the guest book and creating a monthly spreadsheet of countries, state, and cities that guests visit from.
- There was suggestion of ways to market the web site more.
- Kay Larche commented that current refuge events/construction, etc. should be kept at the front desk to inform the volunteers to communicate to the public.
- Sheila – March 18 in the Palm Beach Post tainted rock pit

MITCH motioned to end meeting

PAULINE seconded

Adjourned 3:35P