

Present: Joan Davis, Harvey Eisen, Becky Garcia, Steve Horowitz, Jeff Kramer, Rolf Olson, Cynthia Plockelman, Tom Poulson, Bill Ross, Elinor Williams

Absent: Judy Colvard, Brian Hopper, Kay Larche, David Lurie, John Marshall, Pauline Stacey

President Horowitz called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM.

Previously circulated BOD Minutes of September 17, 2011, were unanimously approved.

The first Old Business addressed was a request received by Elinor Williams from the Girl Scouts of Southeast Florida for a donation of 1000 FLR 2012 calendars for distribution at the Cookie University to be held in Jupiter. GS from 6 counties will be present. During ensuing discussion Harvey Eisen reminded that Friends does not contribute to other organizations. Bill Ross stated that it was not in Friends mission statement. Jeff Kramer moved to donate 1000 FLR 2012 calendars to the Girl Scouts of Southeast Florida. The motion was seconded by Cynthia Plockelman and passed with a 6-3 vote.

Second item was President Horowitz informing the BOD that the Jay Brenner Memorial signage for the Cypress Boardwalk was being prepared with scientific information provided by Rolf Olson and Tom Poulson. The three signs will also have photographs of Jay. Rolf Olson informed the BOD that the Brenner family's wish for a bench dedicated to Jay Brenner is not possible since the Refuge policy will no longer permit such a practice.

The Visitor Guide was the Third Old Business concern. Tom Poulson reported that although the VG awaits further additions, the final product will go to press in November. Becky Garcia was lauded for her outstanding editing of the new Visitor Guide.

President Horowitz next informed the BOD that Permit requests for the Loxahatchee canoe structure have been submitted to ACE and SFWMD. Structural integrity will require holes drilled into the levee, therefore if this causes permits to be not forthcoming, Jeff Kramer recommends a project that does not require a permanent structure. Rolf Olson stated that such was possible.

Fifth item of Old Business was a report from President Horowitz that Bill Tison again flew over Site 1 so updated photographs could be taken by Jay Paredes with Tom Poulson on window duty. Mr. Paredes recommends that any future aerial photographers familiarize themselves with all previous photographs so progression of Site 1 can be clearly indicated.

As the Sixth item of Old Business, President Horowitz informed the BOD that the mandatory \$798.00 Liability Insurance Policy for the Book Store had been renewed. Steve has studied the D and O liability policy and recommends no renewal on November 1, 2011. A later Email decision will be made on the D and O policy.

As New Business, information regarding the establishment of The Harvey Eisen Outstanding Friend of the Refuge Award and Education and Training Fund was announced. Established as a 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration donation by grandchildren and other family members, this \$2000.00 will fund grants for worthy projects by deserving volunteers, teachers et al. Also, the previously announced \$1000.00 fund, brought to Friends through David Lurie's efforts, will be added to the Eisen Fund.

Next the BOD was told that Mitch Rosenheim had volunteered to translate the Visitor Guide to a Spanish language version. Tom Poulson stated that a Spanish version would be longer and require a different set up for printing. It would be more costly to print than the English version. Harvey Eisen strongly emphasized that no request has ever been made in the Book Store for a Spanish Visitor Guide. This item did not come to a vote.

Another New Business item concerned rule changes by the Everglades Photo Society for the upcoming Photo Contest. Jay Paredes is Chair of the EPS. Again conducting the Photo Contest, the EPS will expand contest borders to include the North side of STA1W, STA2E, and the Wellington Environmental Park. The East will now include Strazula Tract Wetlands and the South include both 2A and 2B Water Conservation Areas. These changes were

discussed. The large 2B area was especially of concern. Elinor Williams questioned how far south should be acceptable. Bill Ross questioned, "2B or Not 2B?" Harvey Eisen agreed with Elinor and Cynthia Plockelman that 2B is far distant from the Refuge. A motion was made by Bill Ross to accept the EPS expansion of boundaries. It was seconded by Cynthia and approved by a vote of 7-1 with 1 abstention.

Further changes to the Photo Contest are that the Point and Shoot and the Macro Categories be eliminated. Their elimination results from too few entries submitted. Much discussion followed. That Macro was a technique not a category was explained. New categories will include Flora, Fauna, Avian, Landscape, Artistic, and Youth. This is an effort to equalize entries in all categories. Elinor Williams emphasized the need to promote the Youth category. Jeff Kramer moved to adopt EPS proposals specifically for the 2012 Photo Contest. It was seconded by Bill Ross and passed by a 7-2 vote.

Rolf Olson reported to the BOD of the many groups continuing to visit the Refuge. In particular, he mentioned that Assistant Secretary Sobeck of Fish and Wildlife Parks would visit and tour on October 19, 2011. Other issues mentioned by Rolf were that all Cypress Boardwalk signs were due soon. Water levels in the Refuge are high enough to allow staff to work throughout the Refuge. Also, a law enforcement training officer will be on site for one month. The final item was an announcement that on January 14, 2012, there will be Pet Amnesty for unwanted pets to be safely turned in to shelters with no future euthanasia of those animals.

Elinor Williams reported that calendars will be enclosed with the December issuance of Gator Tales. She recommended also that Annual Meeting date announcement cards be separately mailed to Friends members. Elinor then mentioned a need for a Budget presentation to be made at the premier of the fiscal year. The Finance Committee members are Chair Elinor Williams with members Judy Colvard and Bill Ross. Next it was stressed that a Treasurer's Report is needed at each BOD Meeting.

Harvey Eisen presented his detailed Book Store report for the Fiscal year. It was duly noted that the "None" category no longer exists.

Joan Davis was named Nominating Committee chair as required 90 days prior to the Annual Meeting. The BOD Nominating Committee member is Elinor Williams. Mitch Rosenheim was suggested to be the required non-BOD member and will be contacted.

Submitted by Joan E. Davis, October 20, 2011