

Minutes Friends of the Loxahatchee BOD Meeting, December 13, 2011, 2:30PM Conference Room VC

Present: Judy Colvard, Joan Davis, Becky Garcia, Brian Hopper, Steve Horowitz, Kay Larche, David L. Lurie, John Marshall, Rolf Olson, Cynthia Plockelman, Tom Poulson, Pauline Stacey, Elinor Williams

Absent: Harvey Eisen, Jeff Kramer, Bill Ross

President Horowitz called the meeting to order at 2:35 PM. A quorum was present.

Previously circulated BOD Minutes of November 19, 2011, were unanimously approved after motion by David L. Lurie seconded by Cynthia Plockelman.

Announcements made by President Horowitz: 1) the final Lee Road clean-up of the year on Saturday, December 17th; 2) Michael Rosenbaum will have a "Birds in Flight Photography Class" for Friends plus photo club members; 3) Audubon has now taken the lead regarding the EAA Wind Farm being planned and promoted by the Wind Capital Group; 4) the Sunday, December 12, 2011, WSJ published an article addressing harm done to migratory birds when in their migratory flight paths by Wind Farms. It was accompanied by an illustrative map.

Harvey Eisen, unable to attend the BOD Meeting, will make a Gift Shop report in January. Kay Larche requested BOD members to "shop locally" by patronizing the Friends excellent, well-stocked Gift Shop.

David L. Lurie, Treasurer, distributed to the BOD members the Account Balance Statement as of 12/13/11.

Pauline Stacey reported extensively on the 27th Annual Everglades Coalition Conference to be held Thursday, January 5, 2012, thru Sunday, January 8, 2012, at the Hutchinson Island Marriot in Stuart, Florida. Attending will be Pauline Stacey representing the Friends, JAM representing ARMF, Cynthia Plockelman representing Audubon of the Everglades, with President Steve Horowitz & Tom Poulson also attending from Friends.

EVCO and member organizations are environmentally concerned with the Everglades ecosystem from the Chain of Lakes to Florida Bay and the Keys. For fundraising at the conference, Pauline has requested BOD members contribute items to be auctioned. She also mentioned that since registration is down, the period for registration has been extended. Programs of interest mentioned by Pauline included speaking events of Friday, January 6, 2012: 1) Expediting Return on Restoration Investments; 2) Emerging Issues Before the Legislature; and 3) a Federal Legislative Round Table. Additionally, Field Trips will be offered. The Dinner Keynote Speaker will be well-known author Carl Hiassen.

The events of Saturday, January 7, 2012, will address such subjects as: 1) Sustaining National Capital; 2) Restoration of Indicator Species; 3) The Future of the EAA; 4) Valuing Ecosystems Through Natural Resources Damages; 5) Advancing Restoration Through Local Contributions; 6) Restoration in Lean Times; 7) Operating Projects to Benefit the Southern Estuaries; and 8) Managing Lake Okeechobee for Shared Prosperity. Many Speakers are representatives from environmental organizations.

Since Pauline represents only the Friends, she will make a full report to the January, 2012, BOD meeting.

Kay Larche reported to the BOD on a recent planning meeting in Jupiter re: the upcoming Everglades Day. The committee now has \$9000.00 towards Everglades Day which includes the Palm Beach Cultural Council grant from the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Department. Kay emphasized that the "Mystery" of Everglades Day is being taken in various directions by participating volunteers.

Serena Rinker will give workshop training sessions for Everglades Day. Chuck Ryan is in charge of ED Volunteers. Those "in the know" were delighted with the design of the Tee Shirts for Everglades Day. The shirts are currently in production with 100 being designated for sale in the Friends Gift Shop.

The programs for Everglades Day are being printed by the Friends usual contractor Direct Mail Impressions who are printing the ED programs sans charge.

In the absence of Bill Ross, President Horowitz reported that Gator Tales is at the printer and will be mailed by week's end along with a copy of the beautiful 2012 Friends Calendar. Elinor Williams stated that she has everything ready to proceed with the annual membership invitations.

The printer will be kept quite busy by Friends because Tom Poulson reported that the new Visitor Guide will be at Direct Mail Impressions very shortly.

Rolf Olson's Refuge update concerned progress of Cypress Walk signs, the airboat ride being non-functioning indefinitely, and that the new intern is due on the Refuge.

The January 22, 2012, FLR Annual Meeting and Elections were discussed. The BOD consists of 15 members with a term of three years. 1/3 of the BOD is elected yearly. After reports by all other Committee Chairs, the Nominating Committee of Joan Davis, Chair, with Elinor Williams on-Board member, and Mitch Rosenheim the off-Board Nominating Committee member, will put into nomination the BOD slate. Five persons will be nominated: Jeff Kramer, Kay Larche, and David L. Lurie who are returning BOD members plus Jay Paredes and Max Wald who will be new to the Board. Additional nominations may be made from the floor prior to the final vote. Current BOD officers have agreed to serve in 2012: Steve Horowitz, President; John Marshall, Vice-President; David L. Lurie, Treasurer; Joan Davis, Secretary.

President Horowitz announced that Lance Warley will give his incredible photographic presentation of birds at the Annual Meeting. Following this, refreshments and socializing will be in the Pavillion.

Judy Colvard had requested an addition to the agenda to discuss BOD meeting dates. Most agreed with her wish to have only Saturday morning meetings. It was decided that unusual and special meetings could be called on others days if needed. JAM moved that all 2012 BOD meetings be held on Saturday mornings, seconded by Judy. Cynthia Plockelman, Elinor Williams and JAM voiced opinions. When Steve called the question, Becky Garcia abstained while the motion carried by a vote of 7-4.

Elinor Williams spoke of the need for a review and updating of FLR By-Laws. Joan Davis stated that she possesses copies of previous drafts of amended By-Laws by Herb Teitler and Mitch Rosenheim. She also possesses a copy of the Agreement between the U.S. Dept. of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service and Friends of the ARM Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge if such might be needed for a By-Law review.

President Horowitz stated that a possible new By-Law Study will be announced at the Annual Meeting.

JAM had requested "dues structure and amounts" be on the agenda. He stated that the refuge had changed through the years. There is less money today and expenses have increased. Then, Elinor stated that many members are on fixed incomes and other means should be found to raise funds. Joan Davis' opinion is that the current \$15.00 dues are too little and should be raised slightly. President Horowitz told of the Hadassah successful fund raising effort via Life Memberships which might be worth our consideration. The topic has been carried over for future discussion et al.

Brian Hopper presented ideas for grant applications and fundraising. He made it clear that FLR must have a "wish list" before applying for any grant, especially for NEEF. Elinor Williams also spoke to this subject.

Brian asked that he be Emailed any lists which he will process for further discussion by the BOD. Pauline Stacey added that when brainstorming, time must be used wisely when writing grants. Kay Larche suggested using Refuge photographs as a marketable fundraiser while Elinor Williams suggested that paintings from the Art Contest be displayed more visibly to attract visitors' attention and sales.

JAM had the last word while, again, emphasizing that FLR BOD members should be required to pay a higher membership fee than the present \$15.00 general membership fee.

The motion to adjourn was unanimous at 4:45PM. Members then fled for the door!

Joan Davis, Secretary