

Minutes of Friends of Loxahatchee BOD Mtg., February 18, 2012, 9:00AM Conference Room VC

Present: Judy Colvard, Joan Davis, Harvey Eisen, Stephen Horowitz, Jeff Kramer, Kay Larche, David L. Lurie, John Marshall, Jay Paredes, Cynthia Plockelman, Max Wald, Elinor Williams

Absent: Tom Poulson, Pauline Stacey

President Horowitz called the meeting to order at 9:05AM. A quorum was present. New BOD members Max Wald and Jay Paredes were welcomed. President Horowitz announced the resignation of BOD member Brian Hopper effective immediately. Mr. Hopper will remain active at the Refuge in a volunteer capacity. He will continue searching for grants.

The Minutes of the January 21, 2012, BOD meeting previously circulated via Email, were unanimously approved after a motion made by David L. Lurie, seconded by Judy Colvard that they be accepted.

This was the first meeting of the reorganized BOD since the Annual Meeting in January. Moved by Jeff Kramer and seconded by David L. Lurie, the 2011 officers will continue in their positions through 2012 to the next Annual Meeting in January 2013. Unanimously accepted by BOD members.

David L. Lurie, Treasurer, respectfully submitted his monthly report of February 17, 2012. The gross income from Everglades Day was \$2300.00 with \$800.00 of that from the tent. Other statement accounts are for maintenance of exhibits.

Harvey Eisen reported disappointment with low volume of tent sales on Everglades Day. Refuge Management moved the tent location avoiding flooding and visitors embarking/disembarking from the buses. This issue will be addressed for 2013. Kay Larche recommends comments and evaluation of Everglades Day be directed to Serena and Chuck Ryan. David L. Lurie remarked that the food court was sparse. Harvey Eisen informed that two vendors were no-shows. Visitors expressed disappointment that more food was not available.

Max Ward, on board buses through day, reported that youngsters loved the double decker buses, but older visitors have difficulty with the steps on them. He recommends both single and double-decker buses for 2013. Max reported that the volunteers on the buses gave exceptional performances leaving visitors with very positive experiences.

Jeff Kramer remarked that the doubles cause more problems than solutions. In his opinion, smaller buses are more efficient and move people more easily and quickly. Cynthia Plockelman added that large buses had difficulty in turning around. JAM stated that there had been no parking on the Refuge for exhibitors. Steve disclosed that bus companies sub-contract and the buses on Everglades Day may or may not be what was expected.

Steve reported that Susan Snyder has already gathered necessary information for the 2013 Palm Beach County Cultural Arts Council grant application which is due now for Everglades Day 2013.

Jay Paredes announced that the 2012 Photo Contest entrance fee allows entrants to submit up to 5 images. Contest entrance ends February 26, 2012 with judging by EPS the following weekend. The Photo Awards Presentation will be held in the Auditorium of the VC on March 18, 2012 at 1:00PM.

Elinor Williams reported no 2012 Calendars remain. Hands Stationers in Delray sold 19 at a premium price. Harvey Eisen reported store sales of 2012 Calendars totalled \$989.00. Serena distributes calendars to school groups visiting the Refuge.

Steve reported the situation with engraved bricks has not been solved, but all efforts are being made.

Discussion was initiated regarding a 30th Anniversary for Friends which dates to 1982 when it was named the Loxahatchee Natural History Association. Many suggestions were made including a special offering for Lifetime Membership. This was made by JAM and seconded by Cynthia Plockelman, passed 8-4, but actually deferred until March for further discussion. Joan Davis and Harvey Eisen raised the subject of a special luncheon off property. Kay Larche and Jeff Kramer will check into the possibility.

Steve announced an April Lee Road clean-up.

JAM reported an inquiry received from Convention and Visitors Bureau. Steve expanded on difficulties with the organization. Friends pays \$250.00 per year membership. The problems should be resolved in the near future.

Steve received a call from Fodor's (Guide Book) to update and describe more accurately the ARMRefuge and Friends. This should be a publicity plus.

The Meeting was adjourned at 10:45AM.

Submitted by

Joan E. Davis