

Minutes Friends of Loxahatchee BOD Mtg., April 17, 2012, 2:00PM Conference Room VC

Present: Joan Davis, Harvey Eisen, Stephen Horowitz, Kay Larche, David L. Lurie, Rolf Olson, Sylvia Pelizza, Tom Poulson, Pauline Stacey, Max Ward

Absent: Judy Colvard, Jeff Kramer, John Marshall, Jay Paredes, Cynthia Plockelman, Elinor Williams, Mike Winokur

President Stephen Horowitz called the meeting to order. A quorum was present. David L. Lurie moved that the Minutes of the March 17, 2012, BOD Meeting be accepted. Tom Poulson seconded the motion and the Board passed it unanimously.

Steve informed the BOD that Polar Engraving of Naples, FL offers best prices and service re: engraved pavers. New updated order forms are being printed. The charge for an engraved paver remains at \$100.00. For an additional \$25.00 a small mounted souvenir duplicate is available. Polar requires no contract. There is a one week turnaround time on orders.

Pauline Stacey, the FLR EvCo representative, reported on the Everglades Coalition meeting April 13, 2012, at the Clewiston Museum in Clewiston, FL. Stephen Horowitz also attended the meeting. The 2011 Budget Reconciliation was discussed as was the tentative 2012 Budget. There was no full Treasurer's Report. It was announced that the next EvCo Conference will be at the Coral Gables Biltmore Hotel on January 10-13, 2013. The Everglades Foundation will host the Conference. Five new EvCo BOD members were elected which brought the BOD to a total of nine members. Also, a new member was accepted in EvCo was REEF RELIEF, a Key West organization that is dedicated to improving and protecting coral reef ecosystems. Team Reports were given and a field trip was offered.

Harvey Eisen gave the Store report which indicated income above that of last year. Harvey emphasized that off-season revenue will probably be lower. He mentioned the effect of higher gasoline prices. Everglades Day 2012 revenue equaled Everglades Day 2011 revenue when bad weather lowered attendance. The store is building inventory while taking advantage of free shipping.

Harvey praised Gabrielle Little, a loyal volunteer, who negotiated with WalMart for repellent at a price allowing a store profit. She also received two \$40.00 gift certificates which enabled the purchase of water to be sold in the store.

The best selling items in the store are T-Shirts. The price will remain the same. Harvey plans to purchase Everglades Day T-Shirts early to increase sales of this popular item.

David L Lurie presented the Treasurer's account statement and told the BOD all bills are paid including for Brenner signage.

The Friends of the A.R.M. Loxahatchee NWR's 30th Birthday Party report was made by Kay Larche. The committee chair is Jeff Kramer and Mike Winokur is a member. Country clubs, restaurants et al are being interviewed for this occasion. Possibly, a buffet lunch is anticipated for a weekday in late October or early November. This celebration is

for Friends and friends of Friends. The program will include an auction or raffle to raise funds for a specific project or improvement at the Refuge which will be coordinated with Staff. A speaker of note is planned. Elinor Williams already has the invitation list.

Max Wald, now the editor of Gator Tales, has purchased Microsoft Publisher. He requests all writing for Gator Tales use the same font and double spacing between paragraphs.

Rolf Olson reported the \$1500.00 Harvey Eisen Education and Training Fund will be utilized for "STAR" Summer Teachers Assisting Refuges six week program. Pauline Stacey moved with Kay Larche seconding approval of this that then passed unanimously. Kay also complimented the Refuge on Public Use which Sylvia said was the Refuge's role. Rolf mentioned Serena's requests \$160.00 from Friends for a Nature Champions Program on April 28th. He reported a contract has been signed to repair the air boat ride. Ear phones will be replaced by "state of the art" directional speakers. Three cabbage palm trees near the canoe rental facility and cabbage palms near the Lee Road boat ramp will be removed by SFWMD. Levees cannot have woody vegetation within fifteen feet since water follows root systems. Rolf then indicated the Marsh Trail parking lot access roads are to be improved either by paving or graveling. Steve recommended both roads be improved for Everglades Day buses plus improvement of the turnaround locale for buses.

Rolf showed a new 6 ½ mile hike or bike trail, also open for fishing, between STA1E and STA1W. There is a bridge over the canal but signage is still in progress. The Trail will connect STA1W public access area to STA1E public access area. The Trail on Refuge property will be open seven days a week while Trails in STA's under SFWMD will only be open Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday. Sylvia mentioned restrictions due to security and that the Refuge is working with SFWMD in the matter of gates.

Sylvia spoke to the BOD regarding government approval of the Refuge funding requests. It is a necessary process requiring different databases depending on whether requests are for maintenance or new projects. Funds allocated may only be used for specifically designated projects. Sylvia also informed the BOD that Serena Rinker has been recognized as Pine Jog Environmental Educator of the Year.

No approval has been granted to fill the David Underwood vacancy. Since Mike Walden's retirement, a new hydrologist will be named and headquartered here at the Refuge. A contract administrator filling the Kim Arserio position has been appointed and should be on site by June.

Steve announced: Evan Hirsche from NWRA will visit the Refuge Friday, April 27th; a "thank you " note from Jupiter SRS for support of Envirothon; Lee Road Cleanup is Saturday, April 21st; Sunday, April 22nd is EARTH DAY!

Pauline Stacey moved the meeting be adjourned at 3:45 PM.

Submitted by

Joan E. Davis, Secretary