

Minutes Friends of Loxahatchee BOD Mtg. June 24, 2012, 9:00AM Conference Room VC

Present: Judy Colvard, Joan Davis, Harvey Eisen, Stephen Horowitz, Jeff Kramer, Kay Larche, Jay Paredes, Pauline Stacey, Elinor Williams, Mike Winokur

Absent: David L. Lurie, John Marshall, Cynthia Plockelman, Tom Poulson, Max Wald

President Stephen Horowitz called the meeting to order at 9:10AM. A quorum was present. Pauline Stacey moved to accept the Minutes of the May 12, 2012, BOD Meeting. The motion was seconded by Mike Winokur and passed unanimously.

Kim Detore and her brother Rick made a presentation to the BOD re: the redesign and rebuilding of the canoe/kayak area. All necessary permitting has been received from SFWMD and ACE for the project. Friends previously approved \$3000.00 in its budget toward the cost of the project. Kim Detore will pay balance of cost. The Detores have operated the canoe/kayak facility for 15 years. Construction will be completed in approximately one month. Weather could be a factor in start-up et al. Mike Winokur suggested canoe/kayak lessons be available. Kim will make plans. Elinor will insert this in the July posting. Steve described the difficulty of getting into the canoes and kayaks without a dock. A dock is not feasible; it would require U.S.Coast Guard involvement. Steve recommended the BOD revisit construction costs and raise Friends contribution to ½ the cost if it exceeds the funds already earmarked.

In his absence, David Lurie's Treasurer's report was circulated by Steve. The exhibit fund is accumulating toward the future when the maintenance contract expires. The Harvey Eisen Training & Education Fund will pay \$1500.00 for Serena Rinker's summer project which is working with a teacher to write a curriculum. This is based upon Ding Darling's program. The teacher, Faye Pelosi, will attend a training workshop and receive classroom materials. This is the project known as STAR (Summer Teachers Assisting Refuges) project.

Harvey Eisen distributed 2 Gift Shop reports. He requested Judy Colvard Email instructions to volunteers regarding acceptance of merchandise deliveries to the Store.

Elinor had drawn up store sales and merchandise costs with profit and percentages for the past six years. Harvey said it was not net/net and that the Store differs from other retailers. Discussion followed. Harvey also reported that vendors are calling with price breaks and free shipping. Goods purchased now will be sold in 2013. Steve strongly commended Harvey on the stunning array of excellent merchandise in the Store.

Elinor stated that there should be a promotion of the Movie re: the Refuge which is shown in the auditorium. One problem is that there is no one on site to show it on the weekends.

Jeff Kramer and Harvey Eisen attended a meeting to plan for Everglades Day. The theme for February, 2013, Everglades Day is "Everglades: Rx-Nature's Remedies".

Pauline Stacey reported an EvCo conference call to plan the 28th Annual EvCo Conference to be held January 10-13, 2013, at the Biltmore in Coral Springs. The Everglades Foundation will be the host for this event. Pauline's choice for the theme is "America's Everglades: Our Water, Our Legacy". The BOD approved Pauline's attendance at the EvCo retreat July 26-27, 2012, at the Port LaBelle Inn. Jeff Kramer asked Pauline for the EvCo mission statement. She briefly stated it is the education of politicians by an alliance of 57 local, state, and national conservation and environmental organizations dedicated to full restoration of the Greater Everglades from the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes into Lake Ocheechee through the "River of Grass" to Florida Bay and the Keys.

Jeff Kramer reported on the planned 30th Anniversary Celebration Luncheon on Wednesday, November 7, 2012. At Westchester Country Club, it will cost \$30.00 and have a cash bar. Each attendee will receive a ticket for a free beer or soft drink. The club will donate a free round of golf for four which can be included in the fund raising raffle items. Stephen Bass, a leading environmental educator, will be the speaker.

It was decided that until January, 2013, Lifetime Friends Membership will be \$300.00.

Steve reported a slow response on Brick pavers during this season. The pavers will eventually be sold via the Friends Website. Gabriele Little, a volunteer, is clearing the brick area of weeds while also caring for the butterfly garden. Gabriele has also joined the Anniversary Luncheon Committee.

Elinor announced that the Website will offer adult and youth Tee Shirts for sale with all costs and shipping through PayPal. Elinor and Don Williams, the Webmaster, have made this possible. The Harvey Eisen fund will also appear in the Friends site.

Steve reported no ACE update on Site 1. Sylvia informed Steve there had been a breach in a coffer dam, but it did not compromise the L-40 levee. Now ACE and the contractor are in disagreement. Ergo, things are in a holding pattern until decisions are made. The levee is closed since equipment is still on site.

New Refuge volunteers in residence are Bill and Susan Sliva. Sylvia has approved Bill's plan to hold "Star Parties" with telescopes on the Refuge.

There was discussion re: "Listening Posts" and "Self-Guided Tours" available in two forms. There is no final plan. Another future project is a Weather Station. Bruce Rosenberg set up one at Green Cay and would like to do so on the Refuge. Equipment cost would be \$1200.00-\$1500.00. This is a possible future project.

Steve spoke of Refuge staffing et al. Kristine Baenziger, a new administrative officer, with office next to Rolf's, will live in a trailer with husband Wayne while looking for more permanent housing. Melani Hafsadi will have four High School students working on projects under her direction this summer. David Underwood's position remains open.

Twenty attendees, including three Staff Members, participated in a grant writing workshop. A Refuge participant hopes to apply for a Storytelling grant to promote a storytelling program for children.

Elinor Williams announced that she had gone back to the original Friends By-Laws and, working with Steve, made clarifying changes. This set of By-Laws will be sent online and via snail mail to members who will vote in acceptance or rejection of them.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20PM.

Submitted by,

Joan Davis, Secretary