

Minutes Friends of Loxahatchee BOD Mtg., July 21, 2012, 9:00AM, Conference Room VC

Present: Judy Colvard, Joan Davis, Harvey Eisen, Stephen Horowitz, Jeff Kramer, Kay Larche, John Marshall, Rolf Olson, Jay Paredes, Cynthia Plockelman, Pauline Stacey, Mike Winokur

Absent: Tom Poulson, Max Wald, Elinor Williams

President Horowitz called the meeting to order at 9:00Am. A quorum was present.

Jeff Kramer moved and David Lurie seconded the motion to accept the June BOD minutes. The motion passed unanimously .

Treasurer David L. Lurie distributed the Friends Operating Report for June 1, 2012 thru June 30, 2012.

Steve introduced Faye Pelosi to the BOD. Ms. Pelosi is working with Serena Rinker and is in the STAR position which is being funded by the Harvey Eisen Fund. She spoke about the guide "Rhythm of the Refuge, an Educator's Guide to the Everglades" being prepared for use by persons from any part of Florida or the World. There will be a PDF of the Guide.

Serena holds an Educational Council 4 times each year for all who use the Refuge as a teaching tool. Kay Larche recommended that Serena speak to the BOD re: the Education Council.

Harvey Eisen reported that the Gift Shop income was \$718.00 below June, 2011, but that income was ahead on 12 month totals. Harvey spoke to the BOD that younger people are needed to gradually take over the Gift Shop operations. They will need to work with Harvey, Frank et al now to understand what has made the Gift Shop well supplied and displayed. Judy, Dave and Gabrielle will begin on this transition. Mike Winokur questioned whether price points had been considered. He was promptly and thoroughly reassured that this has been done and that Frank has upgraded all aspects of goods and displays.

Pauline Stacey made a lengthy EVCO report. A Conference planning call on July 11, 2012, discussd the need for volunteers to coordinate and organize five plenary sessions. Ideas are needed for breakout sessions. The next Conference call was July 20th. Ideas are also needed for field trips. The Conference location at the Coral Gables Biltmore, January 10-13m 2013, makes field trips difficult. A letter will be sent to affirm support for the Restore Act. It will include the request that projects restoring the Everglades be part of a comprehensive restoration plan. At the Quarterly Meeting, Kahlil Kettering will speak of the 2016 America's Summit on National Parks via a Statement of Joint Principals. The EVCO retreat and Quarterly meeting will be held July 26 -27, 2012, at the Port LaBelle Inn. On the Agenda is the EVCO Resolution urging SFWMD Water Supply Plan updates to Protect Water for the Environment and Encourage Water Conservation. This will be done via letter. An advance team will begin assembling to plan the 2014 EVCO Conference. Also addressed will be the State Legislative Agenda, Everglades Day Strategy, Executive Call to Action and a Congressional Education Strategy.

Jeff Kramer reported that Anniversary Luncheon invitations will be sent after September 1<sup>st</sup>. The committee will work with the printer. Volunteers are needed to assist with preparations and the luncheon.

Rolf Olson gave a briefing regarding Refuge happenings in the fall of 2013. He mentioned that in STA1 West, hunters harvest many alligators. When asked, he stated there is no good estimate of the number of alligators on the Refuge. Rolf also reported the need for obtaining a reliable cleaning crew for the VC and other buildings, including Hobe Sound; problems exist with two exhibits; and a new Park Ranger will be hired who will train and supervise volunteers et al.

Bill and Susan Sliva, resident summer volunteers, were introduced to the BOD by President Horowitz. Bill works as a mechanic and Susan volunteers in Jean Ryan's office. Bill will connect with the Astronomical Society of the Palm Beaches. This may eventually lead to a "Star party" at the Refuge. Jay Paredes mentioned that FAU has a group who may be interested in a "Star party" at the Refuge.

The Listening Post project was addressed by Steve and Rolf. A phone number to dial and an App would be on each post. Jay will be the Technical Coordinator of this project. Staff will select Post locations also determined by Cell Tower proximity. Judy moved and Pauline seconded that Friends fund this project. Discussion followed. The motion passed with Kay Larche voting "No" and Mike Winokur refusing to acknowledge that the motion had been made. Staff will begin preparing the information disseminated via the Posts. Harvey stated that this project will be a great advancement for the Refuge.

Steve described Friends need for "Grants". Recommended to prepare grants was Susanna Laurenti, a professional Grant Writer. There is no charge for research but charges \$25.00 per hour for the 8-10 hrs. required to write a Grant. There is no charge for follow-up of rejections. Kay move, seconded by Pauline with unanimous approval that Friends allocate \$1000.00 for the first year of this service.

The Meeting was adjourned at 11:00AM.

Submitted by

Joan Davis, Secretary