

Minutes Friends of Loxahatchee BOD Mtg. October 20, 2012, 9:00AM Conference Room VC

Present: Joan Davis, Harvey Eisen, Stephen Horowitz, Jeff Kramer, Kay Larche, David Lurie, John Marshall, Rolf Olson, Jay Paredes, Cynthia Plockelman, Pauline Stacey, Max Wald, Elinor Williams, Mike Winokur

Absent: Judy Colvard, Tom Poulson

The meeting was called to order by President Stephen Horowitz at 9:10AM. A quorum was present.

A Nominating Committee composed of Joan Davis (BOD), Judy Colvard (BOD), and Bill Ross (NON-BOD) was proposed. David Lurie made a motion that the Nominating Committee as proposed be accepted. Mike Winokur seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Terms expiring are: Steve Horowitz, John Marshall, Tom Poulson, Pauline Stacey, and Elinor Williams.

The Treasury Report was made by Treasurer David Lurie who distributed copies of the Friends Operations Report as of September 30, 2012. The \$1000.00 contribution made by a private foundation brought on board by David Lurie has again been made to Friends. It was mentioned that the new \$20.00 membership fee must be emphasized to volunteers. Elinor Williams stated that the \$20.00 membership fee information has been posted on the Website. Also, six Friends members have taken Life Memberships at the Anniversary fee of \$300.00.

Harvey Eisen gave the Gift Shop report and distributed copies of his report to BOD members. He stated that September was a poor month, but at the end of the fiscal year income was \$300.00 above that of last year. Rolf Olson mentioned that Bedner's have agreed to display Refuge signage. It was also suggested, during discussion, that it might eventually be possible to erect one of the proposed "listening posts" on Bedner's property.

Harvey reiterated that November to April has the most visitors to the VC and Gift Shop. Discussion followed as to ways, acceptable to the Refuge, that visitors could be made more aware of the VC and Gift Shop. One suggestion with strong support was to present visitors with an information card when entering at the Gate House.

Kay Larche distributed copies of the promotional flyers for Everglades Day on February 9, 2013. Serena Rinker prepared these flyers in both English and Spanish. Kay suggested that BOD members take flyers to distribute to Physicians, etc. The Everglades Day theme will be "Healthy Everglades – Healthy People".

The EVCO representative from Friends, Pauline Stacey, distributed 10 pages of relevant EVCO reports et al. She spoke of the October Report which included proposals for conferences in 2013 and 2014; a letter to USEPA regarding nutrient pollution water quality; a resolution supporting a captive breeding program for the Florida Grasshopper Sparrow; other documents of interest were enclosed.

Joan Davis asked why EVCO did not receive more publicity to inform the general public not merely politicians of its aims. She later repeated that more publicity would be worthwhile. John Marshall stated that EVCO deals with politicians in small groups.

Pauline stated that EVCO is obtaining an accurate account of its membership. Also, she informed the BOD that the 2014 Conference will be held either in Naples or on Sanibel Island. John suggested that the 2015 Conference be returned to the PGA Resort where it had been held when sponsored by the ARM Foundation.

The BOD was informed that EVCO's John Kabler Award is given annually, since 1999, to a person who has worked to organize and educate the public to generate grassroots support for Everglades restoration. This year's nominee is Friends BOD member Cynthia Plockelman.

Max Wald reported that articles for Gator Tales are trickling in. Max emphasized that more meaningful articles are required and that Rolf's reports would be worthy of inclusion. He remarked that a sense of urgency and an exciting reason for EVCO would also be appropriate.

Mike Winokur who suggested leaving copies of Gator Tales at libraries, was informed that permission was first required.

Jeff Kramer reported that to date 70 reservations for the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Luncheon have been received. Thus far \$600.00 worth of Program pages have been sold. Kay reported that there are 13 items for the Silent Auction and 18 items for the Raffle. Credit cards will be accepted.

Kay announced that Leon Kamen, the first President of the Loxahatchee Historical Society in 1982, will be present at the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Luncheon. Although Kay has known Mr. Kamen for many years, she only learned of his connection to Friends et al when looking through Friends archives. Mr. Kamen will be presented with an engraved memorial brick. After Elinor stated that this would promote the memorial bricks, Joan Davis recommended that a table be set up at the Luncheon and that bricks be sold at a special Anniversary price of \$50.00 available thru the end of November. Cynthia Plockelman made a motion that this proposal be passed. It was seconded by Pauline Stacey and passed by a vote of 12-1. Elinor Williams cast the dissenting vote.

Kay Larche went on to say that the Anniversary Committee has spent "endless" hours planning and implementing procedures for the luncheon. Steve Horowitz again stated that Steve Bass will be an excellent speaker for this occasion. Steve also mentioned that Mark Musaus, retiring after a 40 year career, will be attending the Friends Anniversary luncheon.

Elinor remarked that any politicians in attendance should be introduced and given an opportunity to speak.

Rolf Olson gave a Refuge report which included the information that a fish thought to be extinct has been found in the Cypress Swamp. Also, beginning November 5<sup>th</sup>, David Hall, the new custodian, will report. From Lee Road to the Marsh Trail parking lot will be paved with concrete. Volunteers are needed on Wednesdays and Saturdays for the bird walk as well as to deal with Twitter. Jay Paredes will advise on that. There is no update on Site 1 and there will not be for 4 to 6 years. ACE was asked to open it and declined. There is a dispute between ACE and the Contractor which must be resolved by the Bonding Company. Rolf also reported that annually a total of 330,000 persons visit the Refuge. That total enters through the three entrances.

Steve announced that publicity for the Vision Arts Contest has been good. Deadline for entrants is November 13<sup>th</sup>. Awards will be presented in the VC Auditorium at 1:00PM on December 9, 2012. He also reported that the Grant Writer is doing a good job while Jeff Kramer stated that his stock broker has volunteered a Grant Writer.

John Marshall informed the BOD that the ARM Foundation had a group of young people on the property. They were involved in the "Everglades Thru the Eyes of Children" photo contest and using cameras provided by the Foundation.

Harvey Eisen suggested that since we have Grant Writers perhaps there should be professional fund raisers. John Marshall mentioned that since contingency fees are unethical, it would be expensive to hire a fund raiser.

Elinor Williams asked John Marshall if there had been progress in obtaining a flow way for water to the Everglades. John responded that it had not happened and that Sugar continued to be the impediment.

Copies of the statement by Faye Pelosi, the STAR (Summer Teacher Assisting Refuges) fellowship recipient for summer 2012 were available to BOD members. She praised the Refuge and especially Environmental Educator of the Year Serena Rinker. Miss Pelosi's statement showed the value of the STAR program while also thanking Friends and the Refuge for the opportunity to participate.

Steve reminded the BOD of its next meeting at 9:00AM, Saturday, November 20, 2012.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joan Davis, Secretary