

Present: Judy Colvard, Joan Davis, Harvey Eisen, Steve Horowitz, Jeff Kramer, Kay Larche, David Lurie, John Marshall, Rolf Olson, Jay Paredes, Cynthia Plockelman, Tom Poulson, Max Wald, Elinor Williams, Mike Winokur

Absent: Pauline Stacey

The Meeting was called to order at 9:08AM. A quorum was present. David Lurie moved that the October Minutes be accepted. Cynthia Plockelman seconded the motion which then passed unanimously.

Jeff Kramer reported that 90 persons attended the 30th Friends Anniversary Luncheon on November 7th at West Chester Country Club. Jeff stated that approximately \$1500.00 had been earned through raffle and program page sales. There was much discussion regarding the sequence of program events at the luncheon. Max Wald said that Steve Bass, the keynote speaker, has also written an article for Gator Tales. The spirited discussion concluded when Elinor Williams recommended a lightening of the tone of discussion.

David Lurie gave his Treasurer's Report and distributed copies of it to the BOD. Elinor requested a tracking of donations made by check. Steve announced that Publix had contributed \$100.00 to Friends.

Harvey Eisen made a Gift Shop report and stated that October sales had been mixed, but that he expected November and December sales to be good.

During discussion it was learned that new and younger persons are being trained to work in the Store. Steve reported that some days the Store is closed for lack of coverage. Judy stated that organization and rules are needed in addition to training on the register. Kay stated her belief that things have improved with Chuck on board. Mike requested tracking of peaks and valleys of sales.

Kay Larche reported that Everglades Day plans are progressing. Money is not a problem this year. Steve has already arranged for the buses. Also, he is checking on Ron Wiggins, formerly with the PBPost, as a speaker on Everglades Day. Serena Rinker believes this to be a good idea, but that the posters made by Mike Winokur should not be posted until closer to the event.

Joan Davis, reporting for the Nominating Committee which includes Judy Colvard and off-BOD Bill Ross, informed the BOD that the five persons whose terms concluded in January, have all agreed to serve another three year terms. They are Steve Horowitz, John Marshall, Tom Poulson, Pauline Stacey, and Elinor Williams. Nominations for officers have already been received although nominations for BOD and officers may still be received at the Annual Meeting. Thus far nominations are; Elinor Williams – President; Judy Colvard – Vice-President; David L. Lurie – Treasurer; Joan Davis – Secretary. John Marshall remarked that in his opinion the Vice-Presidency should be a stepping stone to the Presidency. Joan Davis stated that such does not always apply. John also mentioned that this will be his last term on the BOD since he will be writing a biography of his uncle.

Elinor Williams spoke on Budget matters. She stated that Susanna, our grant writer, sends BOD Budget statements with grant applications. Elinor also distributed printouts for 2011-2012 budget and 2012-2013 budget plus other documents regarding the Budget. She stated that she would like the BOD to focus on Fund Raising and have a Fund Raising luncheon in 2013. Steve stated that any grant award funds received are not revenue. Elinor responded that the use of any funds from a grant award can be specifically designated. In response to a question from John, Steve stated that Friends will sponsor a \$250.00 table at the upcoming EvCo Conference. John remarked that the ARM Foundation usually covers both tables.

Elinor explained that she carefully checks P & L sheets to arrive at the items on the Budget reports. She also elaborated on each Budget item. There was discussion to not allow EvCo delegate reimbursement not to exceed \$1000.00 in 2013. The BOD members will have until the December BOD Meeting to study the Budget. The Budget for 2013 will come to a vote at the December meeting.

Max Wald distributed copies of the proposed next edition of the Gator Tales to the BOD for their appreciation of the range of the materials included. Mike Winokur asked the age of readership while Harvey Eisen recommended point 11 print. Joan Davis suggested using only six months of the Marsh Trail report followed by a reference to the Website for the remaining sections of the article. This might encourage readership of the Website. Elinor then recommended that Max add the Website address to the front page of Gator Tales.

Rolf Olson announced a Public Meeting on a Fishing Management Plan. The scoping meeting will be 6:00PM, December 12th at Wellington Community High School. He remarked that the alligator hunt plan is being completed at this time. Rolf also informed the BOD that beginning December 3rd the water plant will be down for the laying of new water lines. Therefore, there will be no potable (drinking) water on the Refuge. Harvey said the store would stock up on bottled water. Steve mentioned that the Munson Foundation has requested more information. The Annual Narrative with photographs that Rolf had prepared for FWS will be resource material for grant application submissions. Rolf also reported that the two year drought followed by floods have caused problems in the Refuge. The cookie cutter suffered a breakdown and parts must be shipped from England. Rolf distributed to the Bod copies of a Preliminary Impoundment Management Plan prepared by a biologist in 2011. He went on to say that more communication is needed between the Refuge and Friends regarding the impoundment as the Refuge has lost 1/3rd of its staff. Fortunately, the Refuge does have fulltime biologists. Money and limited staff must balance and choices must be made. Prior to the BOD Meeting, Tom Poulson had circulated an extensive list of his concerns regarding the auditorium and the Refuge. Rolf addressed them. Jay Paredes addressed the problem with the projector in the auditorium. Rolf will work with Tom on sweat equity projects that are possible for volunteers to perform on the Refuge.

Kay remarked that volunteers should know LILA while Elinor suggested that volunteers should be educated and trained to lead and inform visitors about the Nature Walks. Steve mentioned that returning seasonal volunteers will be helpful while Rolf mentioned that the Refuge has two excellent maintenance workers. The consensus seemed to be that all volunteers require training and oversight.

Paintings for the 2012 Art Contest have arrived, some during the BOD meeting. Steve informed the BOD that there would be judging of the paintings on Sunday, November 18th. The Art Contest Awards and the reception will take place at the Visitor's Center at 1:00PM on Sunday, December 9, 2012.

John Marshall informed the BOD that the Society of Christians and Jews will perform a general cleanup at the Refuge. This ecumenical cleanup is scheduled for November 23rd.

The BOD Meeting was adjourned at 11:45AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Davis, Secretary