

Minutes
Board of Directors' Meeting
Friends of the Arthur Marshal Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge
September 13, 2014

President Elinor Williams called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM.

Present: Elinor Williams (President), Judy Colvard, Esq. (Vice-President), David Lurie (Treasurer), Harvey Eisen, Dr. Jeffrey Kramer, Tony Lang, Kay Larche, John Marshall, Jay Paredes, Dr. Tom Poulson, Pauline Stacey, Dr. Max Wald, Michael Winokur, Rolf Olson (Refuge Manager)

Absent: Steve Horowitz, Linda Steinmuller

1. Minutes

The minutes of the July 12, 2014 meeting were approved as corrected. The official uniform for "Friends" volunteers is the "Friends" name tag affixed to the clothing of the volunteer.

2. Reports

a. Refuge Report, Rolf Olson, Refuge Manager

- The alligator hunt is in progress. Ten gators have been "caught." This is not as many nor have they been as large as expected. The limit is 22.
- Rebekah Gible is heading a team to develop an Interagency Python Management Plan.
- A new sea turtle case has been procured.
- New SCA Candyce Johnson
- New biology technician is Bill Raitter.
- A new fee collection booth is being installed at the Lox Rd. entrance.
- A science workshop will be held on 9/18/2014 at the South Florida Water Management District Office.
- There is a possibility that ARMLNWR will host 2000 to 4000 Girl Scouts in March. Approximately 80 Girl Scouts are visiting today.
- Pet Amnesty Day will take place on October 4, 2014 at the Palm Beach County Zoo. Volunteers are needed.
- Refuge team leaders are developing work plans for 2015. Please inform the Refuge Manager if you have any projects that you wish included.

b. Friends Partnership Agreement, Rolf Olson & Elinor Williams

- The agreement crafted by a joint committee of Refuge staff and Friends board members was distributed via email and resulted in only one comment which was not incorporated into the agreement. The Agreement will be voted on by the Friends' BOD as Unfinished Business.

c. Store Volunteers, Judy Colvard

- Currently volunteers are needed to "cover" the store on Monday and Thursday mornings.

- Members of the Friends' BOD are asked to volunteer.
- Store volunteers who find themselves unable to serve on their assigned day must contact Judy Colvard.
- The key to the cash register identified as "attached to the yellow string" should be kept in the top drawer of the cabinet in the back room; it should not be left in the register.
- Additional Friends volunteers as contrasted to Refuge volunteers are needed.
- It is anticipated that the shortage of volunteers will be alleviated upon the return of "snowbirds" to Florida.

d. Treasurer's Report, David Lurie

- A written report was submitted and filed as of August 31, 2014. The current balance in the operating account is \$31, 889.27. The Munson Matching fund has been merged with other funds and is no longer needed. The full report is on file. The balance in the Munson fund at time of transfer was \$7680.13.

e. Gift Shop Report, Harvey Eisen

- Currently we are not doing as well as last year. Proceeds are \$575 less. The many reasons for this decline ranges from poor weather conditions to a poor economic environment. A full accounting of gift shop activity was filed by the chairman.
- The Store Committee needs to develop written rules and procedures which in turn need to be followed.
- All suggestions for additional inventory should be sent to the Store Committee which will then discuss their viability.

f. Financial Report- Elinor Williams

- Financial reports were distributed as an attachment to the emailed meeting agenda. Additionally, copies of the Balance Sheet, and Profit and Loss Statement were distributed at the meeting along with a copy of the budget with columns contrasting estimated and actual income and expenses. (A copy of the General Ledger was also sent as an email attachment to all board members.)
- President Williams indicated that actual income was less than estimates but that expenses were also lower. As of August 31, 2014 actual income was \$64, 242.86; less than the \$71,050.00 that had been anticipated. Actual expenses (outlay) were \$49, 751.22; less than the 71,050.00 that had been anticipated.
- President Williams noted that at this time the Summer issue of Gator Tales had not been printed and that it would be somewhat delayed. President Williams also indicated that she had assumed the role of coeditor of the publication.
- Board member, Dr. Tom Poulson announced that he needed volunteers to help with the planting of native plants on September 21, 2014 at 8:00 AM.

g. Fund Raising/Public Relations-Jeff Kramer, Michael Winokur, Tony Lang

- The annual luncheon will take place at Saltimbocca on November 12, 2014. The charge will be \$30.00 per person. The cost will cover all costs associated with the event. The luncheon speaker will be Dr. Nick Aumen.
- A bus trip to Hobe Sound and Jupiter Lighthouse will take place on January 15, 2015. The trip is all day with a stop for lunch. Cost is \$50.00 per person and does not include lunch.
- The Folk Music Festival with Rod McDonald & the Brass Band is scheduled for March 22, 2015 at the PBC Jog Road Civic Center. More details will be provided in the future.
- Mike Winokur suggested we investigate the possibility of “Crowd Funding,” and participation in the website called “Kickstarter.”

h. Lee Road Clean-up-Kay Larche

- The next clean-up will take place on September 20, 2014 at 9:00 AM. We are required to have four “clean-ups” a year. Visitors to the “Refuge” are very careful about keeping the site clean. The work required is quite minimal.

i. EVCO Report-Pauline Stacey

- Save the date! EVCO Annual Conference at the Hilton Key Largo, January 8-10, 2015. Pauline will be hosting a breakout session at this conference, “Restoring the Natural Soundscape of the Everglades: Achieving Natural Quiet.”
- EVCO passed resolutions signing on to a letter to President Obama regarding recommendations for the 2016 budget. A letter was also sent to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in support of the “Final Project Implementation Report for the Central Everglades Planning Project.”

3. Unfinished Business

a. Partnership Agreement between the Arthur R. Marshall National Wildlife Refuge and the Friends of the Arthur R. Marshall National Wildlife Refuge and the Supplemental Agreement between the same Parties.

- Motion by Tony Lang, seconded by David Lurie. Move that the partnership agreements crafted by the “Friends” and the management of the “Refuge” be approved by the Friends’ Board of Directors.
- Following discussion in which it was noted that the need for additional liability insurance was necessary along with a more focused attention to the provisions of the agreements, the motion was unanimously approved.

4. New Business

a. QR Self-Guided Tour System

- The QR Reader tour around the Refuge has been completed. It will be inaugurated on National Public Lands Day on September 27, 2015 from 10:00 AM-12 Noon. Post cards announcing the event have been sent to Friends

members, volunteers, donors, and others. The cost of the postcards and postage was \$262.00 for the cards plus \$151.00 for postage. KUDOS to Jay Paredes who assumed responsibility for the production of the electronic material and oversaw the work to make certain it functioned properly. This work was all pro bono. Many thanks are due to Jay without whose efforts this project would not have been completed.

b. Science Workshop

- The Refuge staff will attend a workshop at the South Florida Water Management District on Gun Road in WPB. The Friends will donate \$50. In order to provide refreshments for the event.

c. Ding Darling Refuge Visit/'Farewell' Luncheon for Sylvia Pelizza

- A visit by the Ding Darling staff together with a luncheon honoring Sylvia was held at the Refuge on September 17, 2015. Friends paid for the food and for Sylvia's gift.
- Motion by Kay Larche, seconded by Dr. Jeff Kramer. Resolved that the gift presented to Sylvia at the luncheon be paid for from the Friends treasury. Motion unanimously approved.

d. Friends Calendar

- Each year the Friends produce a calendar that is distributed throughout the community. The quantity produced has been 5000 copies. The recommendation by some boards that the number be reduced to 3000 copies thus effecting a saving of \$919. After a thorough discussion Dr. Jeff Kramer moved that the number of calendars printed remain at 5000. Motion was seconded by Judy Colvard, Esq. The motion was approved by a vote of 8 in favor and 5 nays.

e. Bedner's Pumpkin Patch

- Each year Bedner's creates a "Pumpkin Patch" generating high numbers of visitors to their site. Bedner's has offered the Friends the opportunity of placing a display table on their grounds. The Friends have accepted this offer and now needs volunteers to staff the table.

f. Differentiation between Refuge Volunteers and Friends Volunteers

- Special attention and care must be given to the separation of tasks and duties performed by volunteers. The "Partnership Agreement" prescribes who is a Refuge volunteer and who is a Friends volunteer. Friends' volunteers, for example, work in the gift shop and may not wear the Refuge uniform during this time. A better and clear understanding of these differentiations will become more apparent as the partnership agreement is implemented.

5. Announcements

- a. Bayla Rose Kapsch was born in August. Congratulations!

- b. The Everglades Day grant contract has been signed. Everglades' day is Saturday, February 14, 2015. Reserve the day.
- c. Gabriele has obtained a Costco gift card and Walgreen's drinking water for use at the Refuge. Thank you Gabriele!
- d. The fees for our DSL line and our bank fees have been reduced.
- e. The Friends are now listed on Amazon Smile. This means that .5% of the purchase is donated to the Friends by Amazon.
- f. Thanks to Kay we have reached a Facebook milestone. We now have 1119 "likes."
- g. The Friends Costa Rica trip will take place March 28-April3, 2015, Three people have signed on.
- h. "Artists of Palm Beach County would like to form an alliance with the Friends during October and November. We deferred to a later time because of the short notice.
- i. Pet Amnesty in October. Volunteers are needed.
- j. The slide projector used for slide presentations by the speakers' bureau is broken and will not be repaired. Materials will be transferred to a PowerPoint presentation.
- k. A "soda machine" has been installed in the back of the Visitors' Center. This is a private for profit enterprise.

There being no further business David Lurie, seconded by Harvey Eisen moved for adjournment. The motion was unanimously passed and the meeting was adjourned at 11:31 AM.

Our next meeting is on October 11, 2014, 9:00 AM.

Following the meeting Dr. Tom Poulson gave a brief and interesting natural history lesson that was appreciated by all.

Respectfully submitted,

Max Wald, Ed.D.