

Board of Directors' Minutes of Meeting

Friends of the A.R.M. Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge

October 30, 2018

Present: Elinor Williams, President; Cathy Patterson, VP; Peter McKelvy; Mike Winokur; Tom Poulson; Harvey Lee; Bruce Rosenberg; Steve Henry, mgr; Bradley Rosendorf; and guest, Cathy Allen.

Absent: Sue Rowe, Secretary; David Lurie, Treasurer; Steve Schwartz; Barry Willette; John Cole; John Siegel; Jay Paredes.

1. **Welcome** – Elinor begins meeting at 10 am, welcoming Cathy Allen, the Board Doctor to the meeting. Elinor states that John Cole has tendered his resignation for family reasons and states he wants to be reconsidered for the Board in the future when things allow.
2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting** – Elinor distributes minutes of September meeting asking if there are any corrections, comments, etc. She thanks Linda for her time to take minutes last month. Motion made by Mike Winokur, accepted by all.
3. **Reports:**
 - a) **Refuge Report – Steve Henry reporting – Personnel update:** A new term fee collector has been hired named Garfield Denny and will start work soon; an EPT ecologist will be hired pending in DC; RV volunteers will start to return in late November and all three pads will be full from January to March, Morey and Carol will not be returning; Karen Modell will arrive tomorrow and is staying in the bunkhouse through February; Bradley is working out great as the new Education & Outreach Coordinator, lots of enthusiasm and making many connections especially with the faith based communities. **Visitor Services Plan** comment period will end Nov 8. The Plan will be finalized by the end of the calendar year. **Speaker's Bureau** requests continue to come in and Steve will be the contact person until Sue Rowe returns in November, we are seeking more volunteers who are good speakers and will travel. **Visitor Service Staff** hosted a table at Bedner's Fall Festival and interacted with approximately 3,000 people over the course of 5 weekends, and EKip passes and one time (300) free daily entry passes were given out. Volunteer has started offering tours in Portuguese on weekends. We would like to find volunteers to do them in Spanish and Creole. **Volunteer Training sessions** – Ana has

offered 4 volunteer training sessions in Sept. and will offer 4 more in December. **The Sacred Heart photo event** will take place on 11/7 as well as a filming a documentary about Nancy Marshall. **The Fall EVCO meeting** will be at the Refuge on 11/9. The **Visitor Survey** period starts on 11/27 through 12/11 and the second period will be in mid January 2019. Interns will be conducting the survey.

- b) **Treasurer Report** – Elinor reports in David’s absence, see handout. In the interest of time, we can do next meeting.
- c) **Nature Store Report** – Cathy Patterson reports we are \$1,000 less this year than last year. See handout. Cathy has requested from Steve about a professional sign on the window to advertise the store’s presence from the outside. People don’t know about the store in the building unless they come inside.
- d) **Coastal Cleanup** – Cathy reporting it was very successful. Over 40 people attended and over 160 pounds of trash was picked up. Several groups are getting involved in the clean up days.
- e) **Grant Proposal update** – Elinor reporting and speaks about \$2,500 grant Peter secured from the Children’s Services Council for the purpose of Everglades Day. Peter reports he is working on a big grant with Teri, and one challenge is the capital grants process, making sure engineering plans are ready to go. We are waiting to hear from the Munson grant (\$5,000 for Everglades Day).
- f) **Membership Luncheon** – Mike reporting that the luncheon is on Saturday, Dec 8 at the Iberia Grill off Military Trail in Lake Worth and is \$30 for members, \$35 for non-members at 12 noon. Rolf is the guest speaker. Mike asks Board members to buy tickets. Mike expects approximately 40-50 people. Mike suggests that a letter go out soon to all members inviting them. Peter asks if a post can be made on Facebook also. Elinor states we will have a small silent auction.

4. **Unfinished Business**

- 5. **New Business – Nominating Committee** – Elinor reporting on the Nominating Committee activity, Steve Schwartz has agreed to chair it this year. Nominees include Tim Amann. Cathy asks if we can put out an appeal to the membership to run for the Board. Peter suggests we could think about the process we use to recruit people for the Board. Several of us on the current Board are not going to continue on the Board: Harvey Lee, John Siegel and Elinor are not running again. Mike asks the Board to consider amending the number of people on the Board to 9 plus one at large member.
- EVCO Conference** – Elinor reporting about Pauline Stacey to attend the EVCO conference this year. Peter asks what our role as an advocacy organization is. Mike suggests he doesn’t think it is necessary to do a table at the conference this year. Peter suggests that we have a conversation within the Board about our position before we

send Pauline to EVCO. Cathy Allen states it is a governing document in her organization which they refer to when needed. Tom states we need to make sure our positions are in line with the Refuge's guidelines. Elinor states there is not a quorum and she will send an email out to the Board about whether to fund \$250 for the EVCO conference and a table by Pauline.

Bus Transportation request from Eric Cline (LILA) – Elinor reports she has talked with Tom Salinsky about sending a charter school to the Refuge on a field trip. He thinks it will fall under the purview of funding this event.

Cathy Allen report to the Board – Presents a presentation, see handout. She discusses the Friends in a larger context (local, regional, national governance structures), the role of a Board in Florida for non-profits, and the self-assessment of the Board and designing next steps for our retreat.

6. Announcements –

a) Friends donated \$7,000 to Palm Beach County School District in Sept. for bus transportation!

b) Upcoming events:

- Art Contest - awards ceremony & reception Sunday, Nov 11, 1:00 - Sue, Linda & Roy Judge Laura Mambourg - art teacher, Park Vista High School
- Lagoon Fest - Saturday, Nov 3 - Ron Seifer and Claire Ramlall
- Spookyville - Oct 20 - Tim & Jo, Oct 21 - Tim & Barry W., Oct 28 - Claire & Krishna Ramlall, Oct 31 - Claire & Krishna & Barry W.
- Everglades Thru the Eyes of Children - November 7 - Ron Seifer & Bradley
- EvCo quarterly mtg - November 9 - Mike & Elinor
- Green Cay Migration Celebration - Saturday, November 10, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. - Bradley
- Friends annual membership meeting - Sunday, January 27, 1:00
- Strazzulla Hike & Box Lunch - January
- Plein Air Art Contest Awards Ceremony & Reception - Sunday, February 17, 1:00
- Photo workshop - January 12 - Lance Warley
- Photo workshop - April 6, 7 & 13 - Don Hamilton & Mike Cohen
- Photo printing workshop - TBD - Don Hamilton

7. Meeting adjourned approximately 1:00 pm. The next meeting is November 13 at 10 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Rowe, Secretary