

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

Annual Meeting, January 27, 2019

The meeting started at 12:35 pm; President, Elinor Williams welcomed the members and guests. Board members present: Elinor Williams, Cathy Patterson, Mike Winokur, Barry Willette, Peter McKelvy, Sue Rowe, and Tom Poulson. Nominee for the Board, Ron Seifer, was also present. Approximately 50 people attended the meeting.

1. **Membership** – Elinor reported that as of 1/26/19 the Friends have 301 members. One of the recommendations the Board is working on from the Strategic Planning is to look at ways to increase membership.
2. **Treasurer's Report** – Elinor reported on behalf of the Treasurer, David Lurie, on the year's income and expenses. Due to the number of large grants (\$47,000) in 2018, the Friends are in a good financial position.
3. **Outstanding Friend of the Year Award** – Elinor honored Peter McKelvy, a Friend's Board Member, for his exceptional service this year for his work on securing the large number of grants for the Friends and Refuge. She thanked Peter for him on behalf of the Board.
4. **Strategic Planning** – The Board engaged in a strategic planning for the Friends with Facilitator, Cathy Allen, over the past several months, and had a retreat on Jan. 8, 2019. There is much work to do in 2019 and thereafter in the areas of advocacy, membership, governance development and organizational strengthening.
5. **Nominations Committee** – Elinor reported that Steve Schwartz, as Chair of the Committee, had two members agree to be considered for the Board – Tim Amann, and Ron Seifer. Harvey Lee, Cathy Patterson, and Tom Poulson's terms are ending, and all three agree to serve again. Elinor asked if there were any members from the floor willing to be nominated. None declared. Motion made by Mike Winokur, seconded by Sue Rowe to accept Tim and Ron as new Board members. Welcome, Tim and Ron! Thanks to Cathy, Tom, and Harvey for continuing to serve!
6. **Award presentation** – Cathy Patterson honored Elinor for her years of service as the Friends President. She told the group of the hard work Elinor has selflessly given to the Friends and the Refuge. Also, Cathy honored Don Williams for his spousal support, his work as the Friend's "webmaster" and dedication to the Friends. Thank you so much, Elinor!

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 pm and followed by a special speaker, Judge Nelson Bailey, who spoke about the history of Loxahatchee and the Everglades area. Entertainment was provided by the Florida folk band, Roadside Review. The Chili buffet was catered by Nature's Corner Café.

Respectfully submitted, Sue Rowe, Secretary

ADDENDUM TO MINUTES, ADDITIONAL BOARD BUSINESS THAT OCCURRED IN JANUARY

Prior to the January 8, 2019 Board Retreat held at the Palm Beach County Civic Center in Delray Beach, there was a update and discussion about the Friends purchasing a used tram that Board members, Mike Winokur, Cathy Patterson, and Sue Rowe examined in December with a report back to the entire Board. These three Board members recommended the purchase of the tram with these additions: 1. The purchase price of \$6,500 may be slightly more when they add rear view mirrors at the front drivers area and seat belts to the rear facing seat. 2. The purchase should take place only after the Refuge is reopened so that we can drive the tram frequently in the first thirty days (we were only able to negotiate a 30 day warranty) 3. Mike will secure the final price and be the contact with Eagle Golf Carts in Port St. Lucie. There were 6 Board members present representing a quorum, a motion was made by Sue Rowe, seconded by Mike Winokur to purchase the tram when the Refuge reopens. There was a short discussion about the money to buy the tram will come out of operating costs. Elinor stated that her feedback was that there was consensus by the Board to purchase the tram. She did say there were some Board members who wanted to voluntarily donate money towards the purchase, and she suggested that this vote not be part of those voluntary donations. Vote in unanimous affirmation to buy the tram.

There were two email votes prior to the annual meeting that Elinor conducted.

1. The Board accepted both Ron Seifer and Tim Amann to join the Board, 8 member affirmed, one dissented.
2. The Board accepted a \$7,000 donation to be used for the Palm Beach County School transportation project, 9 members affirmed, one dissented.

Respectfully submitted, Sue Rowe Secretary

January 31, 2019