

Friends of GTM NERR

Minutes of Board Meeting: Tuesday, February 13, 2007

Members present: Bill Coleman, Bonnie Goldsmith, Joe Hutnan, Barb Starck, Irene Kaufman, Peter Difatta, and Carol Travis.

Staff Present: Teri Webley, Janet Zimmerman, Katie Flynn

Guest Present: Ken Bryan

Meeting called to order at 5:10 p.m. by Bill Coleman at the EEC

Bill introduced Teri Webley, Nature Store Manager and Administrative Assistant. Teri will be taking minutes in the future and contacting committee chairs to see if they have anything to report so we will have agendas a week before the meeting.

January's minutes were brought to the floor. Motion to approve by Joe, seconded by Irene and passed by the board.

Executive Committee's Report by Bill Coleman

The Executive Committee is working to update current committee assignments. Bill will contact people to try to get all board members on at least one committee. Research and Stewardship committees are being combined and Volunteer Committee is being eliminated because we have a volunteer coordinator on staff.

Bill indicated that with committees like Development, he has asked Frank to submit a budget with details of plans for mailings and printing so we can track.

Executive Committee also approved a workman's compensation policy for Teri's position. It was under \$500 so was within the committees approval level.

Executive Committee had discussed with Mike Shirley workshops and other planned events and Janet and Mike are working on a schedule of requests for Friends for funding some of these events. The only major event now is the annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner which is a request for \$3,000 while the others are smaller amounts of two, three, four hundred dollars.

Executive Committee did approve the budget as Bonnie had it.

Membership/Brick Update by Barb Starck

Barb indicated she had been working on the American Express Employee giving program to get any conflicts reconciled. Janet explained that American Express matches the donations of employees who work there.

Barb didn't have the report on membership but would email it to board members. It seemed like a donation of \$30,000 from last mailing.

Peter indicated having checked with Barb on the bricks and that all have been put into the data base with the exception of the need for clarification on one or two people and that we are now ready to close out this group of people and move to step two, which is sending letters to the people to verify the accuracy of the wording on the bricks. Janet indicated Teri has verified the data in the computer with the help of a volunteer and that there are 70 brick requests in the database.

Treasurer's Report by Bonnie Goldsmith

Bonnie reported the financials are:

\$89,000	Checking
\$35,000	CD
\$124,000	Total

Joe suggested taking some of the \$89,000 and putting it into another CD. Bill suggested instead setting up a sweep account into a money market account and Bonnie said she would try to do that.

Finance Committee by Bonnie Goldsmith

The Finance Committee met and approved the budget. Bonnie passed out the budget. One is for the Friends and one is for the Nature Store. Budgets are based on limited history. Teri's salary will be equally shared between the two accounts. Revenues are based on estimates. Bonnie pointed out that a budgeted item requires only one signature to approve a check, while an unbudgeted item requires two as dictated by our bylaws.

This budget was approved by Finance Committee and Executive Committee so further approval by the full board was not required.

Bonnie had contacted Brad Davis about the 990 and we are getting an extension. Also, his office is working on a no conflict of interest statement which relates to a checkbox on the 990 form and is considered a red flag. It will be for all the board members to read and sign.

Nature Store Update by Katie Flynn and Teri Webley

Katie indicated she has updated Teri on procedures and she feels quite comfortable to pass the reins to her. Katie was seeking a clear understanding of Linda Melchings interfacing with Teri and with Linda's pulling out and only being involved as needed. Bill suggested that Teri make a list of her responsibilities and meet with Linda to coordinate them with Linda.

Also, with Katie leaving temporarily in the middle of the Sea Turtle Nest Adoption program, she was wondering if the board would be comfortable with Teri taking this over until she would be back as far as getting adoption forms out and donations coming from the Nature Store. Katie will be back for the hatchings. There were no objections.

Teri indicated Nature Store sales are down in January compared to last year, but only slightly. Bill suggested that in the future Teri only needs to report overall direction of the store and not specific financials.

Research Committee Report by Bill Coleman

Pierre was out of town and Anita was sick so Bill gave the report.

The committee reviewed the Right Whale request again and confirmed the recommendation to grant the project the \$5,000 and Bonnie will be issuing the check.

Also, in the paper last week the photo done by Joy Hampp of the Right Whale was from the new airplane and they actually saw the birthing. Bill indicated it was fun that our money helped move this project forward. Janet indicated that if this was actually capturing the birthing of the calf it would have been the first time the birthing had been captured of a Right Whale. It was seen off Ponte Vedra Beach.

Upcoming Events and NERR Update by Janet Zimmerman

The Reserve is presently going through their Management Plan update and the Friends do have a seat on the their advisory group and will be able to review the draft which is expected to come out in May. What the staff is now looking at are issues relating to the plan and they are doing an integrated approach to how they are going to deal with these issues. Issues include habitat and species management, public use, watershed, global issues such as sea level rise and global warming. And there will be various ways the Friends will be involved in this to help implement these plans such as sponsoring workshops, educational classes, bringing in speakers and researchers so the plan will help guide the activities of the Friends group. Pierre is currently our representative.

Janet updated us about money that was donated through the use of EEC facility from various organizations and for the last six months it was \$4,200. Janet felt with the Events Coordinator, Diana Eissing, she expects this function to be ramping up in the future.

We did have a recent donation to the Friends group which was a Celestron Telescope and is being used for the Star Parties.

Couple of workshops: On the 22 of February, the Friends Group is helping sponsor an archaeological workshop for law enforcement officers to help them identify violations. March 20-22 is an Archaeological Symposium, a three day event with statewide and national speakers brought in. March 31, the artist reception for Daryl Labello, who has

photographs of sea turtles. There will be wine and cheese. It was indicated that usually some Friends board members attend to help out with bar tending. Diana will set most of it up.

Mike will be working with Bill to work out the logistics for approval of activities for upcoming events and there should be something on this for next month.

Other Business

Bill introduce Ken Bryan about an issue in St. Augustine, which Bill indicated the Friends group could not take an official stance on but that individually as citizens we could voice our views.

Ken described the Fish Island development which then was followed by general discussion and questions.

Meeting adjourned at 6:01 p.m.