

Friends of the GTM NERR

Minutes of Board Meeting: Tuesday June 14, 2011

Members Present:

Jonathan Katzen, Peter Difatta, Rob Matthews, Mike Koppenhafer, Chris Rich, David Ray

Staff Present:

Teri Webley, Mike Shirley, Annette Odom, Harry Odom, Janet Zimmerman, Forrest Penny

Excused Absence:

Nancy Schachnovsky, Mike Timpane, Breanna Korsman, Irene Kaufman

Meeting called to order at 5: pm by Jonathan Katzen

May Meeting Minutes Approval by Jonathan Katzen

Because there is not a quorum in attendance the May meeting minutes approval has been tabled until the July meeting.

Presidents Report by Jonathan Katzen

For the July meeting the following tasks will need to be completed

Prepare the 2011/2012 budget

Assemble a slate of officers and committee chairs for the 2011/2012 fiscal year.

For OceanWise 2011

- More OceanWise committee members are needed
- Reach out to Mike Shirley for staff participation and for a staff liaison

Due to a staff shortage staff members with the time to participate cannot be identified at this time

- Identify individuals in the volunteer database to approach for targeted tasks associated with OceanWise

Facilities Rentals

A local lawyer and the Friends accountant have been consulted and there are some details that need to be worked out before the Friends can move forward.

Jonathan spoke at a St John's Commission meeting as an individual about a proposed paved multipurpose path to run along the north edge of the wildlife management area. After review by the commission the matter has been tabled. Jonathan has been asked to speak at a MAG meeting on the subject.

Events Committee by Chris Rich

The OceanWise event needs volunteers Mike Shirley was asked if there are volunteers available.

Many of the volunteers are very busy at this time. Mike S suggested that when the Volunteer Coordinator position is filled would be a good time to revisit the volunteer issue. The Volunteer Coordinator would also be a good fit as staff liaison for the OceanWise event.

Grant Report by Forrest Penny

Trail User Survey grant

Sam is overseeing the project and currently has 9-10 students doing surveys. The project will take 12 months to complete. Additional students may be needed in the future. (most of the students are from Flagler College)

Scrub Jay (mowing) grant

The mowing is complete. All of the mowing was done on the west side of A1A.

A fire started at the boardwalk at the middle parking lot that ended the mowing. The mowing was only a few hundred yards short of completion. Forrest approved the project as completed.

Another mowing grant is expected soon. There have been homeowner requests for specific areas for mowing. The grants specify the areas to be mowed so these requests may not be met with grant funds.

Research Reserve Update by Mike Shirley

Handouts –

GTMNERR staff happenings May 2011

Status of Open Grants with the Friends

Mike S explained some of the content on the handout

The fire damaged the boardwalk and middle parking lot is currently closed. Repairs are under way in hopes of having the parking lot open for the Fourth of July weekend. The fire is being investigated as possible arson.

The National Estuaries Day (NED) event is Saturday September 24, 2011

The Board was asked to provide volunteers for the event

The Friends were invited to have a booth or station at the NED event

October 24-28, 2011 the National Conference for Research Reserves will be held in Ponte Vedra

The conference has a friends group track; they are looking for subject of interest and speakers.

RR cont.

Information for potential speakers can be shared with Janet. October 26 the conference will have activities at the GTM NERR that will include a dinner.

The Friends were asked to consider sponsoring and operating the bar

Requests to fill the two vacant positions – Education Coordinator and Volunteer Coordinator have been sent to Tallahassee. Currently there is no timeline to fill the positions.

When asked if there was anything the Friends could do Mike S suggested that while he is sure that the matter will be addressed, if the Friends feel that there is an urgent need to fill the positions they are free to let Tallahassee know of their concerns.

Other Business

Mike K asked about the Friends position on parking along A1A.

In recent history the only issue concerning parking on A1A that the Friends have publicly stated a position about was parking lot safety and mowing down the vegetation between the parking lots and the road.

Parking along A1A near Mikler Rd has become an issue. Mike K suggested that the Friends should get involved early and consider the issue and potential solutions to be prepared to address them when the time comes. While an understanding of the Friends position on increased parking is needed some issues to consider are

- What kind of working group is needed to address this issue
- How increasing parking would impact protected land
- Increasing parking is not part of the GTM NERR's management plan
- Long term effects of additional traffic on the NERR's beaches
- The value of the beaches as they are

The Friends will put a working group together to gather information and potential solutions.

Jonathan adjourned the meeting at 5:50pm

Because there was not a quorum in attendance there was not a vote

The next Friends of the GTM Reserve Board meeting will be Tuesday July 12, 2011
Due to building repairs the meeting may need to be moved, NERR staff will let the BOD know if this will be necessary.

Reminder: Meeting attendance needs to be maintained. See your Friends of the GTM Reserve by-laws for rules concerning attendance. If you know that you will not be able to attend a meeting please contact Jonathan or Teri in order to get an excused absence. Attendance via conference call can be arranged.