

## **Friends of GTM NERR**

### ***Draft Minutes of Board Meeting: Tuesday, Aug. 9, 2005***

#### ***Members present:***

Carl Hampp, Pierre Pierce, Anita Pierce, Steve Harrison, Frank Pixler, Lou Donnangelo, Joe Hutnan, Carol Travis, Bill Coleman, Sheryl Aycock-Anderson and Gail Hankinson.

#### ***Members excused:***

Agnes Danciger

#### ***Members not present:***

Barbara Starck and Bill Gellatly.

#### ***Staff Present:***

Janet Zimmerman, & Katie Flynn

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- I. Meeting called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Carl Hampp at the EEC
- II. Minutes of July 12, 2005 meeting approval
  - Discussion of minutes.
  - Motion to approve the minutes made by Frank Pixler
  - Seconded by Bill Coleman
  - Unanimously approved.
- III. Treasurer's Report by Gail Hankinson

Friends of GTMNERR have approximately \$75,000.00 of unrestricted funds. About half of which are in the checking account and half in the money market account. A treasurer's report was filed with the secretary reflecting:

  - Checking account: \$36,465.93
  - Money market account: \$112,162.74
  - Restricted: \$73,000.00
  - Unrestricted: \$39,162.74
- IV. Nature Store Update by Katie Flynn

A Scope of work for the Manager position has been posted. We have been getting inquiries from persons and entities intending to submit bids. UNF is one entity that has indicated interest in the start up position. It looks like we will have multiple responses to the advertised posting.

Displays for the store products are being obtained. Slat walls will be installed, one display in the form of a tree will add interest to the store, some displays will be provided by the vendors.

Frank reported that the decals and stickers approved at the last meeting have been ordered. Frank also looked into the possibility of ordering magnets with our logo. However, to bring the price low enough that we would be able to sell them for a dollar, we would need to order 10,000 magnets at a cost of approximately \$5,000. While the Board members liked the concept of the magnets, there was concern that this would take up too much of the budget at this time.

Post Cards may be developed from original art work and photography that has been donated. This will be a future project, not ready for the Grand Opening.

Katie needed Board direction on how to proceed with purchasing contracts for the Nature Store as time is running very short for getting the remaining merchandise in before the Grand Opening. She was directed to submit the purchase requests to the Executive Committee of the Board for quick review and approval.

V. Grand Opening Update by Carl Hampp

A wonderful menu, finalized by Steve Harrison, for the VIP event Friday, Sept 24, was circulated. Serenata Club has generously offered to provide us with liquor at their cost. Between 300 and 400 guests have been invited and approximately 150 to 200 are expected to attend. Saturday Sept. 25 the EEC will have the Grand Opening for the Public from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Board members were requested to plan on attending both events and to plan on volunteering in various capacities to make sure the events run smoothly. Plan on parking off site, such as at the Fire Station. Board members requested that colored golf shirts with Friends logos be made available so we could be recognized as Board members of the Friends of GTM NERR. (Board members will purchase the shirts.) Katie will handle ordering these.

VI. Mass Mailing and Brick Update by Frank Pixler

The mass mailing is pretty much ready to go out. We are waiting on only the decals. Approximately 430 pieces will be sent out a month before the Grand Opening.

The engraved bricks are expected to be delivered Aug. 28 and are to be installed the first week in September.

VII. NERR Update by Janet Zimmerman

Installation of EEC displays has been delayed to begin Sept. 1 and be completed on Sept 23. One item they are still looking for is a quality depiction of a flood plain forest.

A discussion was had regarding the donation of photographs made by a previous Board member, Daryl LaBello. There was a motion made by Joe Hutnan, seconded by Pierre Pierce to provide Daryl with \$200, in appreciation for his considerable support of the organization and the photographs he supplied. Motion was approved unanimously.

Janet summarized several of the recent meetings NERR staff have hosted or attended, such as the Statewide Management Meeting of the Aquatic Preserves. Ken Berk is working on the new Management Plan for the GTM NERR and there will be many public meetings coming up on this. Ken will be making a presentation to the County Commission in 2 weeks and Board members are encouraged to attend that presentation.

Annual passes for the GTM NERR will be available soon for \$53.40. The State Park Passes will no longer be accepted. The GTM NERR pass will provide access to the dam, beach parking and the EEC.

Landscaping work is on a fast track to be completed before the Grand Opening, at least for the front of the building. No work on the dock will be undertaken in the immediate future.

#### VIII. Other Business

Two tickets to the Econo Trends Business Expo for August 31 and Sept. 1 were made available to Board members if they could attend.

Board members were reminded that we are members of the Chamber of Commerce organizations for St. Augustine and Ponte Vedra and that when possible Board members were encouraged to attend Chamber functions.

Reminder to all board members that the next meeting will be our last meeting prior to the Grand Opening and the we should all bring our personal calendars to the next meeting. Board members will be asked to sign up for last minute preparation assistance and assignment of tasks with the Grand Opening event. It is anticipated that the NERR staff will specifically need help on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday (21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, and 23<sup>rd</sup>) prior to the event.

IX. Next Meeting will be September 13th at 5 p.m. at Guana EEC Office.

XI. Meeting adjourned 6:15 p.m.