

Friends of GTM NERR

Draft Minutes of Board Meeting: Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Members present: Bill Coleman, Bonnie Goldsmith, Barb Starck, Carl Hampp, Peter Difatta, Carol Travis, Triss Padgett, Joe Hutnan and later Gail Hankinson

Staff Present:

Janet Zimmerman and Katie Flynn

Meeting called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Bill Coleman at the EEC

Minutes to October 10, 2006 meeting were brought to the floor and approved then amended to clarify that in the section, "Other Committee Report by Barb Starck" where it reads, ". . . that if new members signed up July 1 and later . . .", it should include the year and read, "July 1, 2006 and later . . ."

Treasurer's Report by Bonnie Goldsmith

Treasurer's Report per the bank as of 10/10/06 reflected:

Checking Account Balance	25,380.67
Money Market Account	35,960.40
Nature Store Checking	18,095.12
Friends CD	<u>35,000.00</u>
Total	114,436.19

Bonnie indicated she wasn't positive from where the additional funds in checking came, but suspected it was from recent mailings.

Finance Committee Report by Bonnie Goldsmith

The Finance Committee did not meet and had nothing to report.

Executive Board Report by Bill Coleman

Executive Committee did not have anything to report.

Nature Store Report by Katie Flynn

Katie first brought to the board's attention that there are two applicants for funding from Friends for special projects at the GTM NERR. One request was from Woods Hole and the other from the Eagle Scouts. She indicated that these requests should be referred to the Research Committee. Some of the projects included habitat restoration, building handicap rails, a three sided information kiosk, and Right whale panels and funding varied from \$200 to under \$1,500. Bill indicated there were no Research Committee members present, and that Pierre would be willing to chair that committee and he sought

other board members for that committee. Peter volunteered. Carl also suggested a staff researcher and Janet said she felt Rick Gleason would be on the committee.

After extensive discussion on how requests for funding from the Friends would be handled on projects like these, the general consensus was that the procedure would be as follows: The request would go through the NERR staff to determine the feasibility and if it meets the requirements of their management plan, then would be submitted to the Friends Research Committee to determine the possibility of full or partial funding. The committee recommendations then would be brought to the full board for approval.

Development Committee Report by Frank Pixler

Frank was not present and there was no report.

Education Committee Report by Triss Padgett

Triss had nothing to report.

Public Scoping Committee by Bill Coleman

The meeting at Marineland was attended by board member Pierre and Janet. There were about 35 people with about 8 people who stood and spoke. Most comments were very general with Ellen O'Brien reading a statement.

Bill reported that the meeting at the EEC filled the auditorium and Ellen O'Brien spoke first extending beyond the requested three minute limit. 15-20 more riders spoke and it appeared were coached to include the phrase, "hikers and bikers" when referring to horseback riders and the trails. Bill said the Executive Committee which had met earlier had Gail serve as spokesperson at the meeting representing the Friends Board to present the Executive Committee's statement. The statement raised the question about the lack of adequate data collection about the environmental impact from having horses on the trails and on the beach and that they were requesting a more formal scientific review.

Bill said the organization hired to handle the scoping meeting would compile all comments dealing with the GTM NERR, both written and spoken and the staff of GTM NERR would review, then it would be followed by a review in Tallahassee.

Janet indicated that the next draft of the management plan would be presented in January at a public meeting and would seek additional comments. Bill asked about the equestrian issue and Janet said it would be addressed in the management plan. The proposed management plan would be posted on the NERR website for public view. Janet indicated that it is a ten year plan but could be reviewed and revised every five years. Bill said that DEP Deputy Secretary Ballard was specific that there would be no environmental impact to the beach or dunes if horses were given continual access to the beach.

A general discussion of horse access to the beach ensued.

Nature Store Committee Report by Katie Flynn

Katie indicated that the store was closed a lot of weekends because of not having enough volunteers to staff and requested help in finding some volunteers. Key times are 12-4 on weekends. Opening times are 9-4.

There were good sales from private school groups. Joe asked about the possibility of hiring an employee for the store. Katie stated that when the store manager was hired, that person could cover a lot of this. Bonnie indicated we were not in a financial position to hire a store employee.

Katie is in the process of doing Christmas orders and the store is accepting more craft items also, in gearing up for the holidays.

Upcoming Events and NERR Update by Janet Zimmerman

The recently hired GTM NERR manager, Mike Shirley has been involved in the reserve system for an extended period of time and most recently as Research Director at Rookery Bay. There will be an informal meeting on Monday, November 20, at 9 A. M. and Board members are invited. Mike will begin here on January 8, 2007.

Janet indicated that while she was at a meeting in Ohio, she attended a Congress 101 class for Friends groups who may want to contact Congress. It covered how to conduct congressional visits, how to thank them for support and to put a plug in for certain requests and strategies for requesting funds.

Other Business

Barb reported on recent dues. As of Saturday there were 36 new members, but today there was an additional handful of responses to be processed, approximately 77 for a total of 113 new members.

There was 10 brick requests at \$150, 2 brick requests at \$300. The total brought in was \$9,110. Barb thinks it is still early in the response cycle from the mass mailing.

There were 117 renewals out of 400 previous members, a number which includes the FROG group.

There was a discussion on who would handle the brick people and it was decided that Bill will approach Agnes to help with the bricks.

Barb indicated one member sent in \$1,000. Joe suggested that the president of Friends make a personal phone call to thank such generous donors. The next largest donor gave \$250. Bill agreed to calling the \$1,000 donor.

Triss asked for approval of \$75 dollars for a reception for Dr. Girsen Yessin who will be providing a musical concert at the EEC on December 29, from 2-3 p.m. Carol moved to approve money and there was a second by Carl and it was passed by the board.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM