

Friends of GTM NERR

Minutes of Board Meeting: Tuesday, December 12, 2006

Members present: Bill Coleman, Barb Starck, Carl Hampp, Sheryl Aycock-Anderson, Joe Hutnan, Gail Hankinson, Anita Pierce, Pierre Pierce, Peter Difatta, and Irene Kaufman.

Staff Present: Janet Zimmerman and Katie Flynn

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

Minutes to November 14, 2006 meeting were brought to the floor. Pierre noted a correction on the second page of the minutes included in the category "Nature Store Report". It should read "funding varied from \$700 to \$5,000, not "funding varied from \$200 to under \$1,500". With those changes, motion by Carl to approve. Second by Pierre. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

There was no treasurer report. Bill announced there will be a special Finance Committee on December 27 and will include the Finance Committee and the Executive Committee and anyone is invited at Camachee Cove in the Boater's Lounge at 4 p.m.

Nature Store Report by Katie Flynn

There was a pretty good month in November at the Nature Store with a sale of 181 items and an approximate net profit of \$1,500. As a result of a blurb in the newsletter for weekend help, they had a response where it appears the store will have weekend help hopefully starting this weekend. One person will be available every Saturday. Another person will be coming in after Christmas for Sundays. The Saturday lady said that she has some interest in working as manager of the store partially filling the open position that the Friends was seeking to fill. She could not accept pay because of a position she holds with Zerox, but could do it on a volunteer basis. Katie suggested seeing how it goes for a week or two as a volunteer then approach this again after the holidays. The information on this lady would be given to Carl, the chairman of the hiring committee for this position.

Joe asked if there was any kind of incentive to volunteers for working in the Nature Store. A discussion ensued. Joe put forth a motion for a one time, one purchase 25% off coupon valid through December 31 to be given to volunteers of the Nature Store. It was seconded and passed. This would not be for new volunteers and that decision is left up to Katie.

She placed a new order for more shirts with GTM logo since they are selling well. Also new plush animal line.

Development Committee Report

No Development report. Bill talked to Agnes about the bricks and about someone taking over where she left off. She will be gone to the Bahamas starting January 15. She agreed to meet with us before then. A general discussion of what the brick project entails ensued. Bill requested a new chair for this with at least two other people. Bill asked Barb to help and Peter to chair. They agreed. Janet will help. Peter, Barb and Janet will meet with Agnes prior to her leaving.

Education Committee

No Education Committee report.

Research Committee Report by Pierre Pierce

Pierre reported on the committee review of two grant requests from the Boy Scouts and one involving monitoring Right Whales in coastal waters of NE Florida.

Pierre indicated the committee felt the whale project would be good publicity. Also, Pierre indicated they felt the handicap crossover guard rail was a good thing but questioned the Kiosk project. General discussion ensued about various details. One objection from the committee was that there was no detail on what the \$5,000 would go toward on the whale project. The board agreed we needed a defined list of where the money would go and the request would be sent back for more information. No vote on the whales. Committee would then make a new recommendation.

Bill indicated that we would be budgeting grant requests in the future. Peter made a motion to approve the guard rail funding, seconded by Pierre and passed by the board for \$675.

Pierre made a motion to approve the kiosk funding, seconded by Joe and approved by the board for \$1,436.

Peter indicated that the Research Committee requested that in the future all grant funding requests to the Friends be approved and signed off by the Manager of GTM NERR prior to the committee receiving the request. All agreed it would be handled that way.

Membership by Barb Starck

Barb indicated there was another \$1,000 donation.

She also indicated that we had received five or six donations for memorials. These were donations given by friends and family of deceased in lieu of flowers. A discussion ensued as to whether or not these donors were to be put into the data base as potential donors. The decision by the board is that we would continue sending out thank you notes

but not add them to the data base. Linda has been handling the thank you notes.

Since the end of September we have sold 22 bricks for a total of \$3,600. Membership now is 661 compare to last month's total of 562. Out of total 661, 323 have paid (new and renewals). 136 new members since the mailing. Roughly figuring around \$20,000 brought in. All board members are believed to be paid. Some of the 661 are memorial donation people and will be remove.

Barb indicated that of the new members as a result of recent mailing around the county, probably 95% are from Ponte Vedra, and we should keep this in mind in future mailings. Anita feels people in the South don't know about us.

Peter indicated the need to know the profitability of each mailing. Barb indicated Frank was attempting to do this but that part of the reason for mailing was to inform people we are here and even if they don't join now, as long as we broke even, it would be okay. Janet said Bonnie would be able to break out the profitability of the mailings. Barb indicated this mailing's break even point was questionable although a recent invoice from the Pixler Group was less than expected so the mailings may be profitable.

Bill said he asked Frank to put together an annual agenda of all future mailings.

Upcoming Events and NERR Update by Janet Zimmerman

December is a quiet month at the Reserve. Mike Shirley will be starting January 8 and will be here at the next board meeting.

Janet mentioned several memorial donations.

Members of the GTM staff will be available to speak at the Ancient City Gamefish Association on January 16. Pierre indicated that members of this organization are the people who were suspicious of the goals of GTM NERR and these are the people who are not joining. They think we are trying to stop their fishing. Hence, the importance of enlightening them.

Katie indicated that on that same front Frank has arranged that the Florida Sportsman's Fishing radio show will be broadcast from the amphitheater on January 13 and all involved will try to make it into an event. They are trying to get someone from Fish and Wildlife to discuss the dam and someone from the fly fishing community.

Janet indicated Comcast has come to the Reserve and filmed a segment.

Other Business

Bill indicated gate passes were updated for coming year, so yours now may not work. If yours doesn't work, talk to Suzanne.

Irene brought up the fact that there is a menu on the GTM NERR website that requires a pass code and it has lists of committees, minutes and some brick information. She was asking if it should be opened up to anyone. It was agreed that it would not be and everyone was given the code.

Meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.