

Friends of the GTM NERR

Minutes of Board Meeting: Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Members Present:

Ellyn Cavin, Jonathan Katzen, Irene Kaufman, Chris Rich, Anita Pierce, Pierre Pierce, Kay Henderson, Ron Matthews

Staff Present:

Teri Webley, Mike Shirley, Janet Zimmerman, Andrew Thornton

Excused Absence:

Nancy Schachnovsky, Mike Timpane, Peter Difatta, Carl Hampp

Meeting called to order at 5pm by Jonathan Katzen

November Meeting Minutes Approval by Jonathan Katzen

Pierre motioned to approve the November meeting minutes
Irene seconded, all approved none objected, November meeting minutes approved.

Presidents Report by Jonathan Katzen

The updated policies:

Document Retention / Destruction
Executive Compensation
Whistleblower

Were emailed to all Board members following November's meeting.
Hard copies of the same policies were handed out to all Board members present at this meeting.

Jonathan asked for comments about the proposed policies.

Irene is concerned about the title "Executive Compensation" and about item #2 on the policy "using both taxable and tax-exempt organizations as a guide for deciding compensation.

She is concerned that the two items combined may infer that the Board is looking to compensate Executives (meaning Board members) at some future date.

The discussion included the following points:

- The term Executive refers to a paid position that would not be occupied by a Board member.
- Such a position may become necessary if the Friends of the GTM Reserve grew to such a size as to need a large staff and the

“Executive” position would be the person who is in direct contact with the Board and using the Boards guidance manages the staff.

- Should the Friends of the GTM Reserve establish a policy that says they might add the above described position or simply state that there is no Executive Compensation in the document.
- Does the Friends of the GTM Reserve need a document like this one or will one that replaces the term Executive with Employee be sufficient.
- The language used in this document is language that is recognized by the IRS and other organizations that have Executive Boards that meets the purpose of the document.
- The first line of the document states that it is a process to be used by the Friends of the GTM Reserve to determine reasonable compensation for key employees leading to the assumption that it is speaking of employees not Board members.
- The reason for the title of the document is because Executive Compensation Policy is the title used by the IRS for this kind of document.

Jonathan will look into the possibility of changing the language of the policy and still meet the purpose of the document.

Jonathan asked if there were any other concerns with any of the policies.

The Board will vote in January on the policies

Triss Padgett has resigned from the Board of Directors citing personal reasons.

GTM Reserve Trail Run

All Board members present received printed information about the run to benefit the GTM Reserve.

The date of the race is February 7, 2010

Race information and registration can be found on the GTMNERR.org website.

There is a need for volunteers for race support – in the parking lots for crowd / parking control and on the trails for runner support.

Jonathan encouraged the Board members to participate and he will follow up with Angel about volunteers.

President cont.

Beach parking lot security

There has been a lot of press covering only one side of the issue. In an effort to allow the public to see another side of the issue the Executive Committee recommends that the Board of Directors of the Friends of the GTM Reserve working with the staff of the NERR (for facts, history, and statistics) draft a letter and provide it to local press.

Irene will work with Jonathan on the letter and distribution.

After discussion about the potential recipients and content of the letter a motion was made to draft the letter.

Chris motioned to draft the letter

Anita seconded, none opposed all approved

The requested information will be provided for the purpose of drafting the letter by Mike Shirley early next week. (Wk of 12/14)

Parking lot kiosk

As a result of the VyStar contribution the Eagle Scout project on the beach kiosks has begun.

Part of that project is to begin an Adopt a Beach program

The Board has been approached by NERR staff to form an ad-hoc committee to develop the Adopt a Beach program.

Anita will chair the committee, board members interested in helping develop the program are encouraged to join the committee.

Jonathan will work with Anita to get the committee started

Teri will send Anita and Jonathan her file on the Adopt a Beach program

Education and Communications Committee by Irene Kaufman

The items for discussion at the last committee meeting were the two upcoming events from the Education department at the NERR and the need to restructure and re-define the Friends of the GTM Reserve committees.

The restructuring and re-defining of committees was also a topic for discussion at the last Executive Committee meeting. The matter will be continued for examination and suggestions from all committees.

Angie will send Teri descriptions of the two events discussed for distribution to the Board.

The two events presented to the Education and Communications Committee for discussion was:

Leave No Family Inside – April 10, 2010 and State of the Reserve – June 11, 2010

Treasurers Report by Kay Henderson

Kay handed out the monthly reports for October and November and the 2009/2010 budget.

Kay explained that she used past budgets and financials from last year to develop the draft copy of the budget she handed out today.

Kay described some of the items on the budget and pointed some that will change as more information is made available and when accounts are updated.

The monthly reports were explained. The monthly reports are a work in progress and will develop and change as Kay familiarizes herself with the Friends of the GTM Reserve's financials.

Research Reserve Update by Mike Shirley

Disney is offering a program called Give a Day – Get a Day.

When you volunteer with a registered charity you will get a day at Disney.

The GTM Research Reserve is a registered charity but Mike S would like to change that to the Friends of the GTM Reserve.

Teri will see Annette about the change. Teri, Annette, and Angel will work together on the program using the Friends of the GTM Reserve as the registered charity.

January 19 at 7pm there will be a meeting at city hall in the Alcazar room about the status of the OFW (outstanding Florida waters) designation for the southern component of the GTM Research Reserve.

All are encouraged to attend.

There has been a push for a designation as a Marine Sanctuary here. Currently there have not been any boundaries put forth.

Mike S recommends that the designation requires a lot of stakeholders, the group will need to get the information out and explain why, where, and what will it mean.

Mike S will remain neutral until more information is known.

Staff will start giving status reports to the Board on projects funded by the 09/10 budget.

Andrew Thornton gave a report about the Butterfly Monitoring project.

\$200 was received for Dr Pence Ackers transportation to the GTM Research Reserve. Due to schedule conflicts Dr Ackers will no longer be able to participate in the Butterfly Monitoring project.

The \$200 will be re routed to another project. Andrew will fill out the proper forms and make a formal request for the funds when the need for them arises. Any project that uses the funds is already in the work plan.

Even though Dr Ackers is not able to participate the Butterfly Monitoring project is ongoing.

RRcont.

61 species of butterfly have been documented to date.
The volunteer group doing the Butterfly Monitoring project is working on an ID card using photos taken by them.
This card could be available for sale in the Nature Store when finished.

Teri will get the Butterfly Monitoring project report from Andrew for the next Quarterly Report.

Other Business

Pierre was able to get the supplier of the panels for the Boy Scout beach kiosk project to give a discount equal to getting the panels at cost.

Teri will get the company information from Pierre and send a thank you letter when the panels are supplied.

We are heading into another Legislative Session. Much like last year letters to legislators are going to be needed.

There are not many details available known at this time.

Jonathan has been in communication with other groups. Jonathan has also sent out a white paper on the subject.

A 10% hit on the preserve budget is expected.

Jonathan adjourned the meeting at 6:10pm

Chris motioned to adjourn

Irene seconded all approved none opposed, meeting adjourned

The next Friends of the GTM Reserve Board meeting will be January 12, 2009