

Friends of the GTM NERR

Minutes of Board Meeting: Tuesday December 13, 2011

Members Present:

Christine Rich, David Ray, Irene Kaufman, Mike Koppenhafer, Jim Wolverton, Melissa Southwell, Breanna Korsman, Mike Timpane, Jonathan Katzen

Staff Present:

Janet Zimmerman, Carly Swatek, Teri Webley, Emily Montgomery

Excused Absence:

Angie Christensen, Rob Matthews

Meeting called to order at 5pm by Christine Rich

November Meeting Minutes Approval by Christine Rich

David motioned to approve the November meeting minutes in substantial form with staff to reword the first item under Treasurers report.

Breanna seconded, all approved none objected, November meeting minutes approved in substantial form with staff to reword the first item under Treasurers report.

Presidents Report by Christine Rich

The first order of business was to update the Friends of the GTM Reserve's committees. As each committee was addressed the members and liaisons for the 2011/2012 fiscal year were confirmed. Teri will make the changes to the official document and distribute.

The Friends of the GTM Reserve Board of Directors' retreat will be on Friday January 27th and Saturday January 28th.

Treasurers Report David Ray

David and Teri met last month and reviewed the systems and numbers related to the Friends accounting, particularly balance sheet items which carry over from year to year and made adjustments to the numbers, systems and procedures.

Handouts – Statements of Revenues and Expenditures for Friends and Nature Store

Balance Sheets for Friends and Nature Store

David pointed out the OceanWise 2011 numbers and explained the changes in how grant revenue is reported in the statement of revenues and expenditures. The second page of the statement of revenues and expenditures showed what funds the Friends of the GTM Reserve have provided to the GTM NERR this fiscal year through November 2011.

Treasurer cont.

On a quarterly basis David will provide a detailed report of GTM NERR expenses paid by the Friends of the GTM Reserve.

David explained some of the items on the Friends balance sheet. He pointed out the adjustments that were made to clean up reporting.

David and Teri will meet again and review the systems and numbers related to Nature Store accounting. One goal is to merge the Nature Store accounting with the Friends accounting. This will simplify the process and make reporting clearer.

David explained some of the items on the Nature Store handouts and why he feels they may not be accurate.

Events Committee Update by Jonathan Katzen

Breanna and Jonathan are working on the details of the 2012 Guana Run. Bill Dunn will not be available to help with this year's run. Breanna has some experience setting up this type of event and is working with Jonathan. The issue to be addressed tonight is the date.

The date that Breanna and Jonathan recommend is March 17, 2012 St Patrick's Day.

After discussion about alternative dates and the potential impact of it being held on St Patrick's Day the Board decided to stay with the date recommended by Jonathan and Breanna.

The task presented to the Board was to start thinking of ways to bring runners and sponsors to the event.

There was discussion about expanding the run to include a kayak and or bicycle component. This will be explored for future events. A bicycle event may be something to do in the fall.

Jim pointed out that there was not a large Friends presence at the 2011 State of the Reserve event. The Friends will work with NERR staff more closely on the State of the Reserve event and have a larger presence at future events.

Mike T asked the Board to consider adding a membership to purchases of tickets for major Friends events and programs.

Mike T motioned to include a mechanism in all major Friends events to include an introductory membership for attendees.

David seconded, all in favor none opposed. The Development committee will work out the details.

Marketing and Communications Committee by Jonathan Katzen

The Annual Fund Raiser (mailing) went out at the end of November.

The results to date are:

75 responses

44 new members

28 renewals

3 donations

Total funds raised to date - \$4621

Zip code breakdown

32082 54 responses

32080 12 responses

32084 9 responses

While the results are good they are not what the Friends have seen in past mailings.

Jonathan reminded the Board to think about an additional donation to the Friends when they consider their end of year contributions.

Jonathan reminded NERR staff present that the Research Committee is available to help with the Grants program.

Research Reserve update by Carly Swatek

Handouts – Grant update / Research Reserve Highlights
Handbook from the State of the Reserve event

The latest grant applied for – Oyster Shell Recycling and Reef Construction grant looks positive. It is listed as pending on the report but word is it will likely be granted to the Friends.

Janet explained that some of the grants currently being considered may require a matching funds commitment from the Friends. This is an area that the Research Committee may be able to assist NERR staff in the grants process.

One item in the Research Reserve Highlights is the Pellicer Creek Area Land Acquisition. The Friends were asked to provide a letter of support, Jim will draft a letter of support.

The Friends were asked to address the NERR's spending authority over funds raised by the GTM NERR (this does not include funds raised by the Friends of the GTM Reserve). The funds raised by the GTM NERR are deposited into the Land Use Proceeds Fund and only a small portion returns to the GTM NERR. Jim will research the issue and get back to the Board with a plan to address the NERR's spending authority.

CAMA is under reorganization review. The GTM NERR is waiting to see where the NERR's fall in the reorganization.

Other Business

Chris asked when the lights in the Nature Store are scheduled for repair. Janet responded that the lights are on the punch list currently being addressed by the contractors.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20

Jonathan motioned

David seconded, all in favor none opposed.

The next Friends of the GTM Reserve Board meeting will be Tuesday January 10, 2012