

Minutes Friends of Loxahatchee BOD Meeting, November 19, 2011, 9:00AM, Conference Room

Present: Judy Colvard, Joan Davis, Harvey Eisen, Steve Horowitz, Jeff Kramer, Kay Larche, David L. Lurie, John Marshall, Rolf Olson, Sylvia Pelizza, Cynthia Plockelman, Tom Poulson, Bill Ross, Elinor Williams

Absent: Brian Hopper, Pauline Stacy

President Horowitz called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. A quorum was present.

Previously circulated BOD Minutes of October 18, 2011, were unanimously approved.

Rolf Olson presented Refuge Managers updates. There had been a meeting with State. An alligator hunt will be scheduled fall 2012 or in 2013. Theft of Fee Cans at Ten Mile Bend has been occurring. One intern is leaving; a new intern is expected January, 2012. Plans for improvement to the Canoe Trail must be approved by ACE and SFWMD. State and local politicians will be at the Refuge 11/28-11/30. There will be a tour, but a press conference on 11/28 has firm restrictions. JAM and ARMF briefed state legislators re: eco-systems services and evaluations such as CERP. No suggestions made, only a briefing given. Plans for 11/28 have not been approved through Sylvia Pelizza therefore that day's activity is not solidified. Rolf emphasized that with the loss of staff many issues arise where and when staff is required.

The Visitors Guide draft is beautiful according to Steve. Tom stated he wants Sylvia's comments. Rolf stated Sylvia does have comments and will make them. Sylvia and Serena have editorial changes in hard copy. Tom has incorporated 95% of what people have said. Next decision was quantity of VG to print. Printer has inquired re: progress. Tom hopes to have the VG printed and available prior to the Holiday Season. Steve explained the need to have the finished copy in order to obtain a price quote from the printer. Elinor stated that the budget included \$5000.00 for VG printing and that prices vary by number printed. The new VG will be 32 pages in glossy including front and back covers. Bill Ross moved and David L. Lurie seconded that \$5000.00 be used for an initial printing. They then amended their motion to order printing only the number of VG that could be printed within a \$5000.00 limit. The amended motion was passed unanimously.

Bill Ross reported that he has received most articles for the next issue of Gator Tales. Kay Larche is needed to Email the pictures for it. The Art Contest paintings will provide the Gator Tales centerfold. The Gator Tales will go to the printer within a week or so. Steve remarked that he has been impressed by the quality articles from the many sources.

The Gift Shop update was made by Harvey Eisen. The numbers for the year are not good. He requested Refuge attendance numbers for 2011 from Rolf. Harvey is awaiting Mimi's report for the two months of the new fiscal year. The new "Blue Heron" hat, shirt, and keychain are available priced individually and at a package price of \$20.95. Each person who enters the Visitors Center is counted by a volunteer at the desk.

At the EVCO Conference 11/27, Pauline Stacey will be the Friends delegate; Steve will be the alternate. The 12/5-12/8 EVCO conference will be at the Hutchinson Island Marriott and according to Steve is the place to meet persons involved in all aspects of the Everglades and Environment. JAM will be involved in a breakout session. Some problems are expected in coordinating for the conference since Robin Rugger, the paid full time EVCO Administrative Coordinator, has just resigned.

Giving the 2012 Everglades Day update, Kay Larche praised the committee for their work. Steve again is in charge of transportation. The theme of the 13th Annual Everglades Day is "Mysteries of the Everglades." That title and the attractive flyer should entice attention and, hopefully, attendance. Publicity is extremely important this year since severe 2011 Everglades Day weather greatly reduced attendance and income.

The Art Contest, already judged, will have the Award presentations and a reception on 11/20 in the VC Auditorium. Jayme Horowitz is again in charge of the reception refreshments. Steve informed that the judges were favorably impressed by the entries. There were no Youth entries this year. The judges will be present 11/20 to discuss their award selections and reasons for them.

John Marshall spoke of the Everglades project to restore portions of the EAA through the South Florida Ecosystems Restoration Task Force which held meetings 11/17 (Joint Workshop) and 11/18 (Task Force). srestore is all inclusive with environmental groups, plus local and tribal representatives working cooperatively and in communication with stake holders.

Joan Davis as Chair of the Nominating Committee with members Elinor Williams and Mitch Rosenheim secured Jeff Kramer, Kay Larche, and David L. Lurie to serve on the BOD 2012-2015. These will be confirmed at the Annual Meeting. Becky Garcia and Bill Ross declined nomination. BOD members will offer candidate suggestions at the December BOD.

David L. Lurie, Treasurer, presented an interim report.

The Budget Committee of Elinor Williams, Judy Colvard, and Bill Ross presented financial reports: P & L Statement, Balance Sheet, Projected Refuge Funding Requests from Friends of the ARMLNWR, Updated Friends 2011 Budget Oct. 2010-Sept 2011, and the Proposed Friends 2012 Budget Oct. 2011-Sept. 2012. During discussion of the documents the importance of funding to the refuge was stressed. Rolf spoke of the need for Exhibit funding increase since breakage and repair are not included in "maintenance." He recommended the continuation of the yearly \$3000.00 from Friends to the Exhibit while allowing it to accumulate for future use. The Teacher Writing Education Plan funding was not used but will be in Refuge 2012 funding request. Steve mentioned that possibly the Harvey Eisen Fund could be used for this.

During the discussion BOD members expressed the hope of increasing donations since anticipated expenses exceed anticipated income. Elinor explained that the result would be use of the Reserves. Emphasized was that the Friends sole reason for existence is to support the Refuge.

After discussion, funding of CPR training for volunteers was removed from the budget as was Cash Register funding. Conference expenses were increased. Other budget adjustments and suggestions were made and vigorously discussed.

Kay Larche moved that the Amended 2012 Friends Budget be adopted. Jeff Kramer seconded the motion which was unanimously passed by the Board. (The Amended 2012 Friends Budget was Emailed by Elinor Williams to BOD members by 4:00PM 11/19/11.)

Sylvia Pelizza spoke to the BOD and expressed her appreciation for the Friends support when groups visit the Refuge. She made clear that the Refuge cannot legally be the sight for press conferences or anything resembling a press conference that could even vaguely be interpreted as political. Board members expressed their understanding of this and agreement with her.

David L. Lurie moved the meeting be adjourned with unanimous secondings.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15AM.

Joan Davis, Secretary