

Friends of the GTM NERR

Minutes of Board Meeting: Tuesday, January 12, 2010

Members Present:

Jonathan Katzen, Anita Pierce, Pierre Pierce, Chris Rich, Irene Kaufman, Peter Difatta, Ellyn Cavin, Rob Matthews

Staff Present:

Teri Webley, Mike Shirley, Linda Harrison, Harry Odom, Angie Golubovich, Jake Fitzroy

Member Present via Conference Call:

Kay Henderson

Excused Absence:

Nancy Schachnovsky, Carl Hampp, Mike Timpane

Guests:

Chris Kelly, Jesse Jones (press)

Meeting called to order at 5:00 pm by Jonathan Katzen

December Meeting Minutes Approval by Jonathan Katzen

Chris motioned to approve the December meeting minutes
Pierre seconded, all approved none objected, December meeting minutes approved.

Presidents Report by Jonathan Katzen

Jonathan explained that the Fraud Policy would stay as it was when presented to the Board at the December meeting. The accountant recommends that all three policies should stay as they are because they are most appropriate for the Friends of the GTM Reserve's needs. The Executive Committee recommends that the Fraud, Executive Compensation, and Whistleblower Policies will remain as they were when presented to the Board.

Rob motioned to approve all three policies as written
Chris seconded, 7 in favor, 1 opposed. All three policies will be implemented as written.

The Friends of the GTM Reserve have partnered with the staff at the GTM Research Reserve in the Disney Give a Day Get a Day volunteer program.

To date there are 231 volunteers registered to participate in 3 programs.

The Trail Run to benefit the GTM Research Reserve has 23 runners registered as of today.

President cont.

The Annual Fund Raiser has generated \$5025 to date:

26 renewals

41 new members

The last renewal mailing was in June 2009; it is time to do the next renewal mailing.

The Nominating Committee is looking at some potential Board members when they have recommendation they will bring them to the Board.

Education and Communications Committee by Irene Kaufman

The topics for discussion at this month's committee meeting were:

The leave no family inside event

Chris Kelly / Ripple Effect Ecotours may offer mini kayak tours

Volunteers are needed for the event

Scenic A1A event May 1st

The GTM Research Reserve will have speakers there.

There may be a Friends table

Jonathan asked if there is interest in having Sally O'Hara speak at the February Board meeting.

There is interest in having her speak

Jonathan will invite Sally O'Hara to speak at the February Board meeting.

In one week volunteers will participate in a Go Green event put on by the St Johns County Schools.

Angie asked if the Board has decided how they will participate in the Sustainable Seafood event. A list of suggested areas of participation was handed out at last December's meeting.

Angie needs a commitment from the Board "ASAP".

Jonathan will follow up with Angie.

Research and Stewardship Peter Difatta

The committee met with Harry Odom to review funding for the Kiosk projects at the GTM Research Reserve.

As a result of corporate funding, private donations, in kind donations, and funds raised by the Boy Scouts all three kiosk projects are well funded according to Harry's estimation.

Harry explained that one of the kiosk projects is about ½ done and that the Scout doing the project is taking photos and is expected to do a presentation for the Board when the project is complete.

Research and Stewardship cont.

Peter thanked Pierre for getting the cost of some of the major components of the kiosk projects provided at a significantly reduced cost.

Pierre explained that he was able to get the costs reduced with a couple of phone calls. When he identified himself as a member of the Board of Directors of the Friends of the GTM Reserve and the project is a Boy Scout project the suppliers were happy to help.

The next topic at the committee meeting was what other projects need help.
When more information is available it will be brought before the Board.

Peter suggested that all of the Directors have contacts that could lead to funding sources for projects at the GTM Research Reserve.

Treasurers Report by Kay Henderson

Kay attended this meeting via conference call.

Kay will send the financial report to the Directors via email this week

Jonathan will send the kiosk funds report to Kay.

Kay will separate restricted funds from undesignated funds for the report

Research Reserve Update by Mike Shirley

The NOAA funding guidance has been received and the news is good.

Funding for Research Reserves is expected to increase by \$11,000.

These funds still have to be applied for; this is not a done deal.

Additional funds

For education programs about \$15,000 is available in possible grants

\$50,000 in grant money is available for research to set up a sentinel marsh project.

The federal side of the budget looks good.

The state budget is not clear yet.

The Reserves relies equally on federal and state funds.

Meetings:

Outstanding Florida Waters

1/19/2010 – 7pm at St Augustine City Hall

Proposal to designate the southern component of the GTM Research Reserve.

Jonathan will work with Mike Shirley to write a letter from the Friends of the GTM Reserve in support of the designation.

Research Reserve cont.

Building update:

- The construction trailer is on site.
- The start date for the roof repairs is scheduled for next week.
- Duration of any building closure is not expected to exceed 1 week.
- The company doing the roof repairs is accustomed to working in hospitals and will minimize impact on the public areas of the building.
- The repairs are expected to be finished in May 2010.

Jonathan informed the Board that he and Teri have a contingency plan in place in case the roof repairs impact the Friends business office or Nature Store.

Beach Parking Lots

A meeting will be called for all interested parties for a face-to-face discussion concerning the best way to address parking lot safety.

Other Business

Jonathan and Nancy are working on committee structure. One of the possible changes is for the Education and Communication Committee to be split into two.

Any one with suggestions is asked to send those to Nancy.

Pierre expressed concern over to National Heritage designation that the GTM Research Reserve is looking into. He cited the changes in beach driving at Fort Matanzas as an example of what could happen if the Federal Park Service has involvement in the Research Reserve. Pierre is not necessarily against the designation but cautions the Friends and Reserve staff to look very carefully at what regulatory oversight the National Parks Service would have.

Mike S pointed out that the overseeing rights are different for the Matanzas location as a National Monument than they would be at the GTM Research Reserve.

Jonathan will move along the National Heritage issue and all the possible implications will be considered.

Jonathan adjourned the meeting at 6pm

Pierre motioned to adjourn

Peter seconded all approved none opposed, meeting adjourned

The next Friends of the GTM Reserve Board meeting will be Tuesday February 9, 2010

Addendum – The Document Retention and Destruction Policy as presented to the Board was accepted into policy on January 19, 2010 by a majority vote of the Directors of the Friends of the GTM Reserve taken electronically.