

Friends of the GTM NERR

Minutes of Board Meeting: Tuesday, February 9, 2010

Members Present:

Jonathan Katzen, Nancy Schachnovsky, Rob Matthews, Anita Pierce, Pierre Pierce, Peter Difatta, Kay Henderson, Irene Kaufman, Chris Rich, Carl Hampp

Staff Present:

Teri Webley, Mike Shirley, Linda Harrison., Scott Eastman. Andrew Thornton , Angie Golubovich, Janet Zimmerman, Matt Love

Guests Present:

Sally O'Hara (Friends of A1A), Chris Kelly (Ripple Effect Ecotours)

Excused Absence:

Ellyn Cavin, Mike Timpane

Meeting called to order at 5:07 pm by Jonathan Katzen at the EEC

January Meeting Minutes Approval by Jonathan Katzen

Irene motioned to approve the January meeting minutes
Peter seconded, all approved none objected, January meeting minutes approved.

Friends of A1A Presentation by Sally O'Hara

Sally gave a power point presentation about the background, goals, and current projects of the Friends of A1A Scenic and Historic Coastal Byway.

She described how studies were used to set goals and make recommendations.

Of interest to the GTM Research Reserve she explained that her group is recommending a slower speed limit on A1A at the Reserve. The recommendation is to reduce the speed to 45mph from 55mph.

Sally's group is looking for GTM management input concerning crosswalks, signs, and speed limits in the area.

Security at the beach parking lots was discussed. Mike Shirley explained that some of the statistics given by other sources were exaggerated and assured Sally that that being said security has been and continues to be addressed.

Jonathan suggested exploring several of the subjects that Sally spoke about tonight in another forum with Sally's group.

Presidents Report by Jonathan Katzen

The first Guana Run was on Sunday February 7, 2010. It was a 5km and 10 km trail run coordinated by Bill Dunn and the Friends of the GTM Reserve.

About 107 runners participated, the weather was sunny but cool and the runners appeared to enjoy the experience. Runner feedback supported this impression.

There is room for improvement in the event and that will be discussed.

A meeting will be arranged for NERR staff and Board members to share ideas and concerns.

The intent is to hold the event annually.

Event financial summary to date:

Income – 3600

Expenses – 600

Net income to date - \$3000

About half of the runners had never visited the GTMNERR before the run.

Pierre asked if a run like this could be done more than once a year.

It is possible to do it twice a year. More than that is not really feasible.

The idea of a spring and fall run was discussed.

The fall run could be a beach run.

Annual Fund Raiser update:

33 previously inactive members have renewed

50 new members joined

Total membership dues collected from the Annual Fund Raiser to date: \$5225.00

January 2010 renewal mailing update

67 members renewed

Total membership dues collected from the January 2010 renewal mailing to date: \$3925.00

Friends of the GTM Reserve Committee Restructure

Jonathan passed out a list explaining some suggested changes in committee structure to be used as a jumping off point for changing the current committee structure to reflect the changes in how the Friends of the GTM Reserve work with the GTM Research Reserve.

Nancy will check the bylaws for rules concerning committees.

Looking at the Board and committee function historically there seems to be a need to adjust the committees.

The members of the Board of the Friends of the GTM Reserve were invited to give feedback about committee structure to Jonathan as ideas come.

Jonathan reminded those present that committees are not restricted to members of the Board but that concerned members of the Friends of the GTM Reserve can serve on committees also.

President cont.

Friends of the GTM Reserve participation in upcoming events

The following are suggested activities for the Friends of the GTM Reserve to take over and run for these events

Leave no family inside – April 10, 2010

Water and Snack Booth

Raffle

Friends Booth

Sustainable Seafood Reception – June 11, 2010

Dinner Reception

Silent Auction

The Friends have been asked by staff to take a lead roll in the evening portion of the event.

The Sustainable Seafood Reception could become a signature event for the Friends of the GTM Reserve.

Jonathan asked the Board to form groups to organize Friends participation in each of these events.

Jonathan will talk to all Directors about participating.

Treasurers Report by Kay Henderson

The reports supplied by Kay for this meeting included:

Oct 09 – Dec 09 Quarterly Financial Report

Monthly Financial reports for:

October 09

November 09

December 09

January 10

Kay explained the changes made to the bookkeeping system that added columns to the reports.

Kay spoke about the content and intent of the financial reports.

The IRS return for 2009 is ready for review. Jonathan reminded the directors of the policies passed in January related to changes in the IRS requirements for 501 3 Cs. Brad Davis (Friends accountant) suggested that all the directors should review the return before it is filed.

Jonathan will email the draft of the 2009 return to all the directors for review.

Research and Stewardship Committee Report by Peter Difatta

The Research and Stewardship Committee met today and are continuing discussion on items from the meeting. When there is more information it will be brought before the Board.

Research Reserve update by Mike Shirley

Representative Renuart is a Friends of the GTM Reserve member and visited the Reserve recently with a member of his staff.

NERR management is tracking the state budget closely because it is expected to be tight this year.

The Federal side of NERR funding looks good. Grant opportunities are better than expected.

Also on the Federal side and good news. It looks like a grant Matt Love applied for is ranked 7th.

Building update – The repairs have not begun. The contractor has their trailer on site but no equipment so far. The information is that any day now the equipment will arrive and repairs will begin.

Other Business

The Friends of A1A will host the first Environmental Education Fair at Marineland on May 1, 2010.

NERR staff will participate. Volunteers are needed for the NERR table.

Jonathan asked for a motion to adjourn.

Nancy motioned to adjourn

Rob seconded, all in favor, none opposed

The meeting was adjourned at 6pm

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