

# Friends of GTMNERR

*Minutes of Board Meeting: Tuesday, February 10, 2004*

***Members present:***

Steve Harrison  
Bill Dudley  
Joe Hutnan  
Carl Hampp  
Anita Pierce  
Kramer Upchurch  
Judy Sulser  
Pat Shoumlin  
Daryl LaBello.

***GTMNERR Staff Present:***

Janet Zimmerman  
Ken Berk

***NOAA/NERR Evaluation Team Present:***

Peter Wellenberger,  
John McLeod,  
Erica Seiden

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:07 p.m.
2. The minutes from the January meeting were unanimously approved.
3. NOAA Review – *John McLeod, NOAA Evaluator*
  - Here to evaluate and document the GTMNERR.
  - Board members introduced themselves.
4. Membership Billing Schedule
  - Do we bill all at once at the same time of the year?
  - Or bill based on the month when the person joined?
  - Which way will be the easiest for the office to implement?
    - Yearly billing would be easiest for all concerned.
  - A motion made by Joe Hutnan to move yearly billing to October.
    - Motion seconded by Pat Shoumlin.
    - Motion passed unanimously.
5. Membership Rate Schedule
  - Carl discussed the need to raise membership rates. The development committee will meet and make a proposal at the next meeting.

- Janet discussed the need to communicate with the brick company that will be producing the fund raising bricks.

#### 6. General Membership Event – *Steve Harrison*

- March 28 at construction site. 2-4 p.m.
- Refreshments provided.
- Janet mentioned the need for a planning committee to plan the event.
- Invite all members and past donors.
- Janet and Steve will start the planning.
- Notice should go out within three weeks.

#### 7. Research Committee – Report Tabled.

#### 8. Volunteer Projects List

- Janet is looking for volunteer projects.
- Ken mentioned they are preparing to plan phase two construction and some projects may be able to be included.
- Joe presented a list of projects that FROG had planned.
  - Rain shelter for bird watching
  - Butterfly garden
  - Bird boxes near trail
  - 400 foot walkway
  - Research and document cultural sites within the park
  - Trail sign improvements
  - Build picnic tables and benches
  - Trail clean-ups
- Judy would like to have a volunteer training program.
  - Including fact sheets on all the lands with basic facts and details.
  - Ken mentioned that they have planned to have an exhibit including this type of information and brochures from all of the partner organizations.
- Joe and Ken will get together with the Park Rangers to get more detail on proposed sites for projects.
- Steve brought up Earth Day.
  - April 21<sup>st</sup> (weekend of 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>)
  - Ken mentioned the need to close the recreation area for paving and construction purposes close to that time.
  - Washington Oaks puts on a very nice celebration
    - If the group has a table at Washington Oaks, Janet mentioned we should come up with activities for the kids.
  - FOR will forgo having a celebration at Guana River due to construction and enhance it's presence at the Washington Oaks Celebration.
- If anyone comes up with additional items pass them on to Janet.
- Janet needs to get volunteer log books out to board/committee members so that we can start recording hours. There will be a volunteer appreciation

event hosted by DEP and Jonathan Dickinson at the State Park, March 10-14.

#### 9. New Items

- Janet said the Nature Festival organizers would like a copy of our mailing list to send out information.
  - Nature Fest held in May.
  - Joe recommended we do a mailing list swap.
  - Booths and field trip departure will be at amphitheatre.
  - Judy made a motion that we provide our mailing list to Nature Fest.
    - Joe seconded
    - The motion passed unanimously.

#### 10. Closing remarks from NOAA Evaluators.

- Very pleased with progress.
- Asked board members what are the critical issues for the future...
  - Not visible enough need more awareness.
  - Need to get people involved right at the beginning of the opening of the Nature Center and be organized enough to present ourselves well.
  - Need to prepare for running gift shop.
    - Inventory, sales, finance and accounting.
- Commented that everyone loves the monthly GTMNERR email newsletter.
- Asked us how many members the organization has?
  - We have approximately 200-250 members.
- Recommend that we have some sort of retreat so that we can spend the time to organize, reflect, and engage to plan organizational structure.

#### 11. Stewardship Committee

- Need to re-advertise position.
- Still hope to have someone in by end of March.

#### 12. Changing the Entrance for WMA – hunters

- Better for all parties to relocate entrance to off 210.
- Current situation dangerous and not in the best interest of the park.
- Would enable the WMA to have more visibility.
- Park cannot charge people going into WMA through the dam entrance which could limit the use of an automated system.

#### 13. The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.