

FoGTMNERR
Minutes of Board Meeting: Tuesday, February 15, 2005

Members present:

Steve Harrison
Frank Pixler
Anita Pierce
Barbara Starck
Carol Travis
Carl Hampp
Gail Hankinson
Bill Coleman

Excused absences: Agnes, Bill G, Daryl, Pierre

Staff present:

Ken Berk, Janet Zimmerman and Carroll Kissam

- I. Meeting Called to order at 5:10 pm
- II. Minutes approval
 - Motion made to approve by Steve
 - Seconded by Anita
 - Approved unanimously
- III. Committee Reports
 - Stewardship (Anita) Committee met with Forrest Penny GTM Stewardship Coordinator).

Some of the current Stewardship need include volunteers to administer a visitor use survey, litter patrol, volunteers with salt water aquarium experience to help with tank maintenance and feedings, and tour guides. Current Stewardship activities include: prescribed burns, Feral pig control, restoration and tree removal at Indian mound, rebuilding of perimeter fence, and shell bluff erosion control project.
 - Research (Anita) Committee met with Rick Gleeson (GTM Research Coordinator).

Volunteer needs are not as urgent for research. Volunteers are needed to help with retrieval of water quality data by boat and with the USGS fisheries survey trawl. They discussed the possibility of applying to the fishing tournament grants that may provide funds for research equipment.
- IV. MAG Meeting Report (Anita)
 - No attendance of the MAG meeting from the horse groups. Pierre passed along the position of the Friends group.

- Summer Haven dune washover and St Johns County's plans for dune restoration were discussed.

V. Treasure's Report (As of 2/15/05)

- Checking Account Balance: \$35,897.89
- Money Market Account Balance: \$244,808.24
 - Restricted -\$207,000.00
 - Unrestricted: \$ 37,808.24

VI. Bricks sales and mass mailing

- Approx 143 brick sales have been received so far.
- The possibility of doing another mailing was discussed. Frank and Steve will work on this for the next meeting. We would like the mailing to be in mailboxes by April 1st and include a "buck slip" (colored half sheet) to: reinforce the May 1 deadline for brick orders guaranteeing the placement of your brick in place by the Grand Opening, mentioning the Grand Opening date of Sept 24, 2005 and highlight the need for volunteers at GTMNERR.

VII. Nature Store Update (Steve)

- Steve presented a number of items he has for the Nature Store and passed out an inventory sheet example. Steve is looking into the possibility of acquiring Marineland's gift shop system as they are changing to a new system and won't need the old any longer. Ken suggested Steve contact the gift shop manager at the Lighthouse. She had offered help if needed.

VIII. Other Business

- The Friends of GTMNERR is now national recognized by the National Estuarine Research Reserve Association (NERRA). The Annual NERR meeting will be Oct 23 in Naples, FL this year. Friends may want to have a member attend. (Carl)
- A securities account has been set up with Wachovia. Bill Coleman attended the Morgan Stanley dinner on "Effective Fiduciary Management" and suggested the board will need to establish a written investment policy in the near future. (Bill C)
- Certificate of Occupancy should be issued this week for the EEC. March 24 is the approximate date of substantial completion for the Guana Dam construction project. (Ken)

IX. Meeting adjourn 6:30pm

- Next meeting to be at 5pm March 8, 2005 at the Guana River office