

# **Friends of the GTM NERR**

## **Minutes of Board Meeting: Tuesday, March 9, 2010**

### **Members Present:**

**Jonathan Katzen, Kay Henderson, Peter Difatta, Nancy Schachnovsky, Ellyn Cavin, Carl Hampp, Chris Rich, Irene Kaufman, Rob Matthews**

### **Staff Present:**

Mike Shirley, Teri Webley, Angel Gonzalez, Janet Zimmerman, Angie Galubovich, Joe Burgess

### **Guests Present:**

Chris Kelly (Ripple Effect Ecotours)

### **Excused Absence:**

Pierre Pierce, Anita Pierce

### **Meeting called to order at 5:05 pm by Jonathan Katzen at the EEC**

### **February Meeting Minutes Approval by Jonathan Katzen**

Kay motioned to approve the minutes with the following change:

Kay explained the changes made to the bookkeeping system to designate temporarily restricted funds.

Peter motioned to approve the amended February meeting minutes

Nancy seconded, all approved none objected, February meeting minutes approved the change.

### **Presidents Report by Jonathan Katzen**

To date the January renewal mailing has raised \$1450 Since the February Board meeting for a total to date of \$5375.

Teri put together and sent an invitation to the runners and volunteers from the 2010 Guana Run to join the Friends of the GTM Reserve. To date 2 new memberships have been generated from the run.

A letter concerning the Federal budget was given all directors present.

The Friends of the GTM Reserve have been asked to add their name to the letter to be sent to the House Budget Committee in Washington DC to support funding of environmental conservation, clean energy and sustainability programs for the 2011 budget.

The letter is being sent by the American Rivers, Defenders of Wildlife, National Audubon Society, National Parks Conservation Association, Natural Resources Defense Council, and the Wilderness Society.

President/federal budget letter cont.

After reading the letter Mike Shirley approved the intention of the letter.  
Carl motioned to approve adding the Friends name to the letter

Peter seconded, all approved, none opposed, the Friends of the GTM Reserve will add their support to the letter.

NERRA is adding the names and contact information of officers of Friends groups to their online directory. Are the officers of the Friends of the GTM Research Reserve comfortable having personal information on the site (name, office, email address)  
There is some concern about putting personal emails on a national website.  
One solution is to use the Friends email address for the officers.  
Jonathan will contact Matt Menashes about the site and required information.

The draft copy of a letter for local representatives and state senators was passed out to the directors present.

The letter addresses the state budget and the effect it will have on the GTM Research Reserve. The letter can be sent by the Friends of the GTM Reserve and by each director individually.

The directors were also asked to think about other groups that could send the letter. Much like what Pierre did last year.

Carl suggested a change for the letter:

Reference how many people are represented by the Friends of the GTM Reserve in the first paragraph of the letter.

Mike Shirley explained how the letter will be received by the state legislature and that he may be asked to speak about the intent of the letter after a question from Peter.

Carl Motioned to approve the edited version of the letter to be sent by the Friends of the GTM Reserve as a group and individually as well as inviting local groups to also send the letter.

Rob seconded, all in favor, none opposed.

The letter will be sent to all directors electronically for edit suggestions and the edited version will be used as stated above.

New Committee Structure – Last month a list of suggested committees was distributed at the Board meeting. The Directors were asked to email any suggestions concerning the new committee structure to Jonathan and the final list would be voted on at this meeting.

Some of the committees are required in the bylaws

Executive Committee

Finance Committee

The existing committee that did not need any changes

Development

The new committees

Events

Marketing and Communications

Research, Education and Stewardship

President/new committee structure cont.

In the new structure funds requests would go to the Research, Education and Stewardship committee and the Finance Committee is operational (confirm availability of funds)

Other changes

The Governance Committee is included in the Executive Committee.

The Nature Store falls under the Marketing and Communications

Committee

There will be sub-committees within the main committees as needs define

Motion to approve the new Committee structure with the Nature Store moved to the Marketing and Communications Committee

Motion – Irene

Second – Nancy, all approve, none oppose

The new committee structure will be implemented immediately as stated above.

Teri will send all Directors a copy of the new committee structure and the old committee list so they may choose where to serve.

**Treasurers Report by Kay Henderson**

The financial report for February 2010 was distributed to the Directors present.

Kay explained some of the items on the report and invited questions.

Questions about designated donations and accountants fees were raised and will be addressed.

**Education and Communications Committee Report by Irene Kaufman**

With the changes in committee structure the Education and Communications Committee is on hold pending the new structure and definition of responsibilities.

One item for discussion today is the Leave No Family Inside event scheduled for April 10<sup>th</sup>.

The Friends table needs to have some Directors in attendance for the duration of the event.

The flow of funds for the catering of the event will need to be coordinated very soon.

**Research Reserve update by Mike Shirley**

The State of the Reserve and Sustainable Seafood event has been rescheduled for the fall of 2010, date to be determined.

The roof repairs have begun but the completion date may not be as expected.

Joe Burgess reported that the old roof was installed incorrectly the new roofers are working to correct that. The color of the new roof will be different.

Once the method of correctly attaching the new roof is established it should not take much more than a month to complete the job.

Research Reserve cont.

Two grants have most likely been won by NERR staff through the Florida Coastal Management Program

    Matt Love has won a \$150,00

    Nichole Love has won a \$50,00

Confirmation of the grants should be received by May 2010.

**Other Business**

Jonathan reminded the Directors that there will be a sizeable turnover in Board Members at the end of this year.

The Directors were asked to start thinking about who they know that might be a suitable fit for the seats being vacated.

Information about potential new Board members can be directed to:

Jonathan, Carl, Rob or Ellyn

    One of the officers at Grummond has made inquiries about Board membership.

    A packet describing the Board and the Reserve were sent to him.

Reminder: Any Director available to staff the Friends table at the Leave No Family Inside event can email Angel with their availability.

Jonathan asked for a motion to adjourn.

    Chris motioned to adjourn

    Carl seconded, all in favor, none opposed

    The meeting was adjourned at 610pm

The next Friends of the GTM Reserve Board meeting will be April 13, 2010