

Friends of GTM NERR

Minutes of Board Meeting: Tuesday, May 10, 2005

Members present:

Agnes Danciger, Joe Hutnan, Carl Hampp, Sheryl Aycock-Anderson, Pierre Pierce, Bill Coleman, Steve Harrison, Frank Pixler, Lou Donnangelo, Barbara Starck and Carol Travis

Members excused:

Daryl LaBello & Gail Hankinson

Members not present:

Bill Dudley & Bill Gelatley

Staff Present

Katie Flynn, Ken Berk, Janet Zimmerman & Forrest Penny

I. Meeting called to order at 5:05 p.m.

II. Minutes approval

- Motion made to approve.

- Seconded.

- Approved.

III. Treasurer's Report

Checking account: \$36,838.56

Money market account:

 Restricted: \$176,000

 Unrestricted: \$38,606.78

IV. Development committee

 Membership dues to date: \$19,550

 Brick sales to date: \$26,033

 Frank reported that an additional 1600 letters had been mailed to businesses.

 We were reminded that the deadline for brick sales is May 30 for the bricks to be available for placement in time for the grand opening.

V. Clean-up

 Forrest Penny reported a need for clean-up on the beach side of the Reserve. There is much debris including numerous timbers, etc. The first Saturday in June (June 4) was selected as the date for the clean-up and it will be for ½ day beginning at 8 a.m. Forrest and Katie will be coordinating this and flyers announcing this are to be produced and distributed announcing the event and asking for volunteers.

VI. Nature Store

 Steve reported that he had interviewed one candidate for the position as manager. There are a couple of other people who have expressed an interest in applying.

Discussion was held regarding the need for a paid manager is needed for the start-up of the Store and that it is a pressing need to have this person on board.

VII. Grand Opening

The opening will consist of two events:

Friday, September 24, 6-8 p.m. by invitation only. Refreshments to include hors d'oeuvres, beer, wine & coffee. It was estimated that the list would be 100-200 people including major donors, government officials, etc. Ken and Janet will be working on the list to determine how many we can expect to invite. July 1 is the deadline for preparation of the guest list.

Saturday, September 25 will be the opening to the public at 9 a.m. At 10 a.m. there will be some speeches. The Friends are to host both events. There will be a meeting on May 24th at 11 a.m. (at Seranta) for the Grand Opening Committee to further discuss details.

VIII.

Ken reported that the Friends will have its own mailing address in the future. The EEC will have the 505 Guana River Road address and other associated entities will be assigned separate addresses. We will be able to use the Center address until the stationery and other printed materials are exhausted

IX. Other business

Pierre announced that there is a forthcoming event, The King Fish Challenge which will be held out of the city marina. He suggested that we might want to consider having a booth there and he will check on the dates and get back with us.

Janet reported on the Fly Fishing Clinic which will most likely be held on June 18th for one-half day. There will be approximately 16 spaces for sign-up and he is able to supply 10 rigs. A motion was made, seconded and passed that the fee for registration would be \$100 per person. Suggestions for promoting the event were discussed and included announcing the event through area outdoor fishing and sports stores.

Sheryl brought to the attention of the Board the opportunity and value of joining the Chambers of Commerce organizations in Ponte Vedra and St. Johns County. Fees were discussed (approximately \$225 for Ponte Vedra and \$160 for St. Johns). A motion made, seconded and approved that the Friends of the Reserve join both of these. There is also to be a Business Expo Trade Show the latter part of August. The fee for registration is \$400. We will decide whether or not to participate nearer the deadline.

Frank announced that Ken will be the guest speaker at the Meninak Club in Jacksonville on Monday, September 12. He also mentioned that the remaining printed materials from the mailing are at the EEC.

X. Next Meeting will be June 14 at 5 p.m. at Guana EEC.

XI. Meeting adjourned 6:05 p.m.