

Friends of the GTM NERR

Minutes of Board Meeting: Tuesday May 11, 2010

Members Present:

Jonathan Katzen, Nancy Schachnovsky, Anita Pierce, Rob Matthews, Peter Difatta, Irene Kaufman, Kay Henderson, Tom Barry, Chris Rich

Staff Present:

Teri Webley, Janet Zimmerman, Angie Golubovich, Emily Montgomery

Excused Absence:

Carl Hampp, Mike Timpane, Pierre Pierce

Guest:

Sally Ohara, Chris Kelly

Meeting called to order at 5pm by Jonathan Katzen

April Meeting Minutes Approval by Jonathan Katzen

Rob motioned to approve the April meeting minutes

Peter seconded, all approved none objected, April meeting minutes approved.

Friends of A1A Presentation by Sally Ohara

The Friends of A1A are currently working with a consultant firm involved in a project to create a master plan to tie together the sections of A1A within the Friends of A1A's area of interest. The parts of the GTM Research Reserve that run along A1A are within this area. One of the goals of this project is to create some continuity in signage, style and design as well as updating the placement and message of the signage along A1A. The meeting attendees who have not done so already filled out ballots with their preferences on some vehicular and directional signage. These ballots will be given to the consultants along with the others collected from local residents and business people. The information will be used to determine the most preferred style of sign.

Sally explained the process and where in the process the Friends of A1A and the consultants are in getting some continuity along the scenic drive. She also explained why the Friends of A1A feel it is an important project.

Presidents Report by Jonathan Katzen

Jonathan welcomed Tom Barry as the newest member of the Friends of the GTM Reserve's Board of Directors.

Is the Board interested in hosting a food event fundraiser?

A Sustainable Seafood Event is an option recommended by NERR staff.

Benefits of such an event would be

1. Raise money
2. Increase awareness in the community of the Friends and the Reserve and what is being done here.

Originally the idea was to have a Sustainable Seafood Event in conjunction with the 10 year anniversary events at the GTM Reserve.

Presidents Report cont.

Those activities have been moved to a time that is not optimum for a charity fund raiser.

Another option for a food event is in October.

After discussion about dates that will not conflict with local events already established and availability of the EEC and Reserve staff, October 23 appears to be the best date to work with.

The question of liability and insurance for the event was raised:

Nancy will look into the liability issue.

A core committee for the event was established:

Jonathan Katzen

Peter Difatta

Irene Kaufman

Rob Matthews

Kay Henderson

The core committee will meet every couple of weeks to get the ball rolling. Sub-committees will be formed to handle the details of the event.

Membership program for volunteers

Should the Friends develop a program for volunteers at the GTM Reserve wherein they would be offered a membership to the Friends of the GTM Reserve in exchange for hours of service.

Tom does not feel this would be effective

Nancy, need to check the bylaws and articles of incorporation for rules concerning donation requirements for memberships.

Budgeted Funds to the GTM Research Reserve

Last year the Friends and Reserve staff used a new method of funds request and dispersal for planned expenses.

The time has come to review this program and decide whether to proceed with the program as was done last year or whether there needs to be changes. Some things to look at for the 2010/2011 fiscal year are:

1. The Finance Committee will make a recommendation as to the amount of funds to make available for this program if it is to be used again this year.
2. The Marketing Committee will submit a plan for the 2010/2011 fiscal year.
3. The Research, Education, and Stewardship Committee will identify projects that they feel are a priority for funding in the 2010/2011 fiscal year.
4. The Board of Directors will identify projects that are a priority to fund in 2010/2011.
5. What changes will be made for;
 - i. Requesting funds
 - ii. Dispersal of funds
 - iii. Reporting use of funds
 - iv. Any other item or procedure that the Board feels needs addressing.

Research Reserve Update by Janet Zimmerman

Letter of support for Florida Blueway and St. Johns River Blueway Florida Forever projects

In response to a request by the GTM Research Reserve management the Friends of the GTM Reserve will send a letter of support for the above mentioned projects to members of the Acquisitions and Restorations Council (ARC). The letters to be received by them before May 16, 2010.

Grant Update by Nancy Schachnovsky

To date 7 grants have been applied for under the small grants program.

2 of those grants have been funded

Of the funded grants one project has been completed and reported to the grantor the other is in progress.

Now that we have been applying for and receiving grants the process we use will be reviewed and changes will be made wherever it is deemed necessary by the Board.

Treasurers Report by Kay Henderson

The finance report for April 2010 was passed out to all present.

When reviewing the year to date report the Board was reminded of the unique situation the Friends face this year at the EEC. Due to building repairs and fewer programs event and program revenue as well as the Nature Store sales have been negatively impacted.

Other Business

There was no other business

Jonathan adjourned the meeting at 6:20pm

Nancy motioned to adjourn

Rob seconded all approved none opposed, meeting adjourned

The next Friends of the GTM Reserve Board meeting will be June 8, 2010