

Friends of the GTM NERR

Minutes of Board Meeting: Tuesday, June 9, 2009

Members Present:

Pierre Pierce, Anita Pierce, Peter Difatta, Bill Coleman, Chris Rich, Triss Padgett, Ellyn Cavin, Rob Matthews, Nancy Schachnovsky, Jonathan Katzen, Kay Henderson

Staff Present:

Mike Shirley, Marty Healy, Forrest Penny, Diana Eissing, Janet Zimmerman, Matt Love, Teri Webley

Excused Absence:

Carl Hampp, Irene Kaufman, Mike Timpane

Meeting called to order at 5:00 pm by Pierre Pierce at the EEC

May Meeting Minutes Approval by Pierre Pierce

Nancy motioned to approve the May meeting minutes
Bill seconded, all approved none objected, May meeting minutes approved.

Executive Committee Report by Pierre Pierce

The criteria for kayak partnership were discussed. Some changes were suggested and will be added. The committee feels it is near a final draft.
The vendor for the National Estuaries Day event was also discussed. While the committee has made a vendor selection the day for the event may change due to building repairs. This may impact the availability of the selected vendor.

Development Committee Report by Jonathan Katzen

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Jonathan handed out a general summary of membership activity for the fiscal year to date.
Jonathan reported that the Friends of the GTM Reserve is ahead in expenditures.
The Development Committee is preparing to send the second round of renewal notices to members for this fiscal year.
The Development Committee recently met to develop a plan for reaching out to the local business community. The Development Committee will be meeting again within the week about the business community and will have a report for the next board meeting.
Pierre invited everyone present to share any ideas they may have for reaching out to the business community with Jonathan and the Development Committee.

Brick Update by Teri Webley

Teri reported that phase IV of the Building a Path to the Future has been installed.

2 – 8x8 and 14 – 4x8 bricks were ordered and installed.

In an effort to reduce program costs the bricks were installed by Joe Burgess. Joe is a NERR employee who installed the bricks as a volunteer project.

Teri will send Joe a thank you from the Friends of the GTM Reserve for his efforts.

Office Equipment update by Teri Webley

The printer in the Friends of the GTM Reserve office is not working properly. It will not scan items into the computer or email any longer and the printing function is starting to show signs of wear. For scan jobs Teri is taking the documents home, scanning them into her home computer, and emailing them to the Friends office.

If the print function fails the daily operations of the Friends of the GTM Reserve would be negatively impacted. All reports and checks are printed with this printer.

Nancy suggested purchasing a new printer for the Friends office.

Bill and Nancy both recently purchased printers and Teri will check with them before purchasing a printer.

The printer currently in the Friends office is a 3 in 1 and will be replaced with a 3 in 1.

The printer is expected to cost between \$200 and \$500.

Peter motioned to allow up to \$500 to be spent for the new printer.

Anita seconded, all approved and none opposed.

Small Grants update by Nancy Schachnovsky and Teri Webley

On February 10, 2009 the board voted to a NERR staff member to apply for a few small grants in the Friends of the GTM Reserve name. These grants would provide the experience needed for the Friends to develop a set of standards and procedures for the granting process.

To date 3 grants have been applied for:

Florida Sea Turtle Grant from the Caribbean Conservation Corp.

4/15/09 the grant was received

No funds have been requested by staff.

Staff contact – Scott Eastman

Conservation Grant from the Florida Native Plant Society

Grant applied for

Contact of record – Teri Webley

Coastal Training Workshop Series from the US Fish and Wildlife

Grant submission still under Friends of the GTM Reserve board review

Staff contact – Marty Healy

Nancy has been working with NERR staff Harry Odom and Jean Annucci to develop standards and procedures for the granting process.

Harry Odom and Jean Annucci developed and submitted to Nancy a set of procedures.

Small Grants cont.

Nancy will make some additions and will email the document to the Finance Committee for review.

Nancy clarified the reason for the Friends of the GTM Reserve to become involved in the granting process. The State of Florida only does large grants \$10000 or more. There are several small grants offered and this is how the Friends can help.

Research Reserve update by Mike Shirley

The GTM Research Reserve management plan was approved by the Governor and Cabinet. The management plan will be reviewed by NOAA now and is expected to be approved.

It appears that the GTM Research Reserve has been awarded 2 million dollars to acquire the Rogers parcel. This award will be made by the NOAA land acquisition program, coastal and estuary land acquisition program.

Building update: the contractor has been selected and they are in the final stages of the paperwork including insurance documents so they can work for the state. When final paperwork is approved they will have 15 days to begin work, then 150 days to complete the project. The staff is preparing for the possibility that the work may not be completed before National Estuaries Day. One possibility is that the National Estuaries Day event may be moved to a later date.

The work plan is progressing and the staff should have something for the Friends of the GTM Reserve Board by July. Mike S plans to schedule the work plan workshop in July.

The GTM Research Reserve will receive about \$90000 less but will not lose any staff. There is one vacant seasonal position that will not be filled.

There were positions lost in the region and a closure. 9 positions statewide were lost in CAMA. It could have been a lot worse. Mike S gave credit to and thanked Pierre Pierce for his efforts in the call to action. Pierre spearheaded the email and letter writing campaign that was very helpful in bringing the budgeting issues to Governor Christ's attention. Everyone got hit throughout the state and the GTM Research Reserve came out pretty good in Mike's opinion.

The GTM staff is looking more closely at grants to help cover the reduction in budget dollars.

GTM Staff Presentation by Forrest Penny **Stewardship**

Forrest started by introducing the Stewardship department staff at the GTM Research Reserve.

Forrest's presentation covered the scope, history, present and future projects of the Stewardship Department.

Other Business

Chris asked if Frank Pixler and Barb Starck had received their retirement awards yet.
They have not.

Jonathan will contact Frank and Teri will contact Barb to arrange for them to attend the July Friends of the GTM Reserve BOD meeting to receive their awards.

Pierre adjourned the meeting at 6:00 pm

Bill motioned to adjourn

Nancy seconded, all in favor, none opposed

The next Friends of the GTM Reserve Board meeting will be July 14, 2009