

Friends of the GTM NERR

Minutes of Board Meeting: Tuesday, July 21, 2009

Members Present:

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

Staff Present:

Mike Shirley, Angie Golubovich, Teri Webley, Jake Fitzroy, Janet Zimmerman

Excused Absence:

Mike Timpane, Triss Padgett, Bill Coleman, Anita Pierce

Meeting called to order at 5:15 pm by Pierre Pierce at the EEC

Following the GTM Staff / Friends Budget / Work Plan Workshop

June Meeting Minutes Approval by Pierre Pierce

Jonathan motioned to approve the June meeting minutes
Carl seconded, all approved none objected, June meeting minutes approved.

Presentation of Awards by Pierre Pierce

In appreciation of their service to the Friends of the GTM Reserve retired Directors Frank Pixler and Barb Starck were recognized and awarded with plates engraved with a message of thanks.

Officer Nominees for the 09 / 10 Fiscal Year by Carl Hampp

The Nominating Committee has conducted interviews and presents the following Board members as nominees for the following positions for the 09 / 10 fiscal year.

For President – Jonathan Katzen
For Vice President – Nancy Schachnovsky
For Treasurer – Kay Henderson
For Secretary – Chris Rich

Election of Officers for the Friends of the GTM Reserve will be held at the next Board meeting.

Development Update by Jonathan Katzen

Jonathan passed out a summary of membership and donor activity for this fiscal year up to July 21, 2009

A renewal reminder was sent to delinquent and up for renewal members in June 2009. The report identifies how many renewals were generated by that mailing. The cost of the mailing was \$40. TC Specialties donated their services for the mailing.

The Development Committee is working on fund raising for specific needs and business to business campaigns. One project that is currently in development is an adopt a beach program.

National Marina Day by Pierre Pierce

The National Marina Day event will be at Camachee Cove on August 8, 2009 from 10am to 2pm. The Friends of the GTM Reserve will have a table and the GTM Research Reserve staff member Jake Fitzroy will join the Friends at the event with some live animals.

Research Reserve update by Mike Shirley

MAG will support the Outstanding Florida Waters (OFW) designation for the southern component of the GTM Research Reserve. A designation letter will be sent to Tallahassee.

MAG will also support the National Heritage Area designation for this area. Pierre Pierce is the Friends representative on the MAG and did not cast a vote concerning the National Heritage Area designation. Pierre will vote as the Friends Board directs.

The designation could bring up to 12 million in funding for programs at the GTM Research Reserve. There was discussion about the advantages of having this designation. Mike said a letter of support from the Friends of the GTM Reserve would be beneficial. A motion concerning writing a letter of support for the National Heritage Area designation was called for.

Carl motioned in favor of writing the letter

Jonathan seconded, all in favor, none opposed.

The Friends of the GTM Reserve will write a letter in support of the National Heritage Area designation.

Janet will send a sample / draft letter to the Executive Committee.

The Management Plan has been approved by NOAA. The GTM Research Reserve staff is taking steps to implement the plan.

The Volunteer Appreciation Dinner will be on August 29 from 6pm to 9pm. It will be held at the Ponte Vedra Civic Association building. It will be a barbeque. Invitations are on their way to Board members.

Budget / Work Plan Discussion by All

During the workshop an item that came up for discussion was the stipend for teachers attending a workshop at the GTM Research Reserve.

The stipend was promised to the teachers attending based on information that the GTM Research Reserve (NERR) staff had that provided for the stipend.

The staff has learned that the funds are no longer available for the stipend which could amount to as much as \$2000 at \$100 for each teacher for the two day workshop. To date 20 teachers have signed up but only 7 have confirmed.

Nancy reminded the Board that due to reduced revenue for the 08 / 09 fiscal year the Friends of the GTM Reserve are operating at a deficit.

NERR staff is looking into alternate funding for the stipend.

There was discussion in favor of and against providing the funding for stipend if alternate funding cannot be found by NERR staff.

A motion to allocate up to \$1000 for the stipend not to exceed \$100 for each recipient if alternate funding cannot be found by NERR staff was called for.

Carl motioned to allocate the funds

Irene seconded, all approved, none opposed.

\$1000 will be allocated as stated above.

Other Business

Carl reminded the Board that the committees will need to meet before the next Board meeting to discuss the budget / work plan items that apply them and be ready to present their recommendations at the next Board meeting.

Before the Budget / work plan can be voted on by the Board a timeline for the funding requests identified in the budget / work plan needs to be presented to the committees.

This will need to be done in time for the committees to meet and then to present their recommendations to the Board for vote at the September 8, 2009 meeting.

NERR staff will provide a visual display listing the projects that need additional funding for the National Marina Day – Friends of the GTM Reserve table.

Pierre adjourned the meeting at 6:20pm

Nancy motioned to adjourn

Pierre seconded, all in favor, none opposed

The next Friends of the GTM Reserve Board meeting will be August 11, 2009