

## **Friends of the GTM NERR**

### **Minutes of Board Meeting: Monday September 14, 2009**

#### **Members Present:**

**Pierre Pierce, Peter Difatta, Chris Rich, Nancy Schachnovsky, Carl Hampp, Rob Matthews, Jonathan Katzen, Ellyn Cavin**

#### **Staff Present:**

Teri Webley, Mike Shirley, Andrew Thornton, Angie Golubovich

#### Excused Absence:

Anita Pierce, Irene Kaufman, Bill Coleman, Triss Padgett, Mike Timpane, Kay Henderson

### **Meeting called to order at 4:00 pm by Pierre Pierce**

### **August Meeting Minutes Approval by Pierre Pierce**

Nancy motioned to approve the August meeting minutes  
Jonathan seconded, all approved none objected, August meeting minutes approved.

### **Presidents Report by Pierre Pierce**

Because this is the last Board meeting for Pierre as President he gave each Board member an arrowhead replica in pewter.  
He thanked the Board for their support during his tenure as President

Pierre welcomed Jonathan as the new President.

### **Executive Committee Report by Pierre Pierce**

The criteria for partnership were given to the attorney for edit and approval with any suggestions or concerns submitted to Teri per the Board vote at the August meeting. Some changes were made and the edited criteria for partnership were approved by unanimous vote at the Executive Committee meeting September 8, 2009. The Board already having voted to approve the criteria for partnership as voted on by the Executive Committee did not need to vote on the matter.

The date for the next submission for partnership was brought before the Board for vote. The Executive Committee recommends that the next time the Board will address applications for partnership will be October 1, 2010.

The reason being that there is less than a month before October 1, 2009 and that is not enough time for interested vendors to receive the criteria and to compile and submit the required forms and documents. Pushing the date back would shorten the duration of the partnership of any vendor chosen.

The current vendor partner Ripple Effect Ecotours will remain the partner vendor.

Executive cont.

Carl motioned to approve the criteria for partnership, accept the October 1, 2010 date as the next time the Board will address applications for partnership and to keep Ripple Effect Ecotours as the partner vendor until then.

Jonathan seconded, all in favor, none opposed.

**Research and Stewardship by Peter Difatta**

The Research and Stewardship Committee met with NERR staff Matt Love, Forrest Penny, and Rick Gleeson via conference call concerning Budget / Work Plan items: visiting investigators, volunteer monitoring, and the watershed planning meeting.

The Research and Stewardship Committee recommends approving these items in the Budget / Work Plan.

Carl motioned to approve the Research and Stewardships portion of the Budget / Work Plan as stated above.

Jonathan seconded, all approved, none opposed.

In addition to the Research and Stewardship recommendation the Board visited the recommendation of the Education and Communications Committee made at the August Board meeting concerning the Budget / Work Plan.

The Education and Communications Committee recommends approving the items in the Budget / Work Plan that fall within their purview.

Jonathan motioned to approve the Education and Communications portion of the Budget / Work Plan.

Peter seconded, all approved, none opposed.

**Vote for Budget / Work Plan 09 / 10 by Pierre Pierce**

The next item is the Budget / Work Plan for the 09 / 10 year submitted to the board at a special meeting by the GTM Research Reserve Staff.

The Executive Committee voted 3 to 1 in favor of approving the full budget with the stipulation that the Budget for 10 / 11 would be based on actual funds raised by the Friends of the GTM Reserve during the 09 / 10 year after Friends expenses. Because the Friends of the GTM Reserve are operating at a loss this year the funds for the 09 / 10 budget would come from Friends of the GTM Reserve assets.

One stipulation from the Board was that the staff at the GTM Research Reserve understand that the budget for 10 / 11 may not be as much as the budget approved today and the Board reserves the right to decide what portion of the funds raised in 09 / 10 will be used for the 10 / 11 budget.

Carl motioned to fund the 09 / 10 budget as presented in the Budget / Work Plan and that the 10 / 11 budget will not exceed funds raised by the Friends of the GTM Reserve in 09 / 10 above Friends expenses. The amount for the 10 / 11 budget will remain at the discretion of the Board.

Peter seconded, 1 opposed and 7 approved.

### **Development Committee Report by Jonathan Katzen**

The last renewal mailing sent was in June 09. A budget for the next solicitation will be presented to the new Development Committee prior to bringing it to the Board.

Jonathan has been working to get commitments from local companies that may enable the Friends to do twice the mailing for similar money to last year.

### **Butterfly Monitoring Report by Andrew Thornton**

17 volunteers attended 5 sessions for a total of 45 volunteer effort days. Akers Pence attended 4 sessions and will attend the September session as a make up for the session missed. Each session cost \$42.50 in travel so he has \$30 left of the travel funds paid to him by the Friends of the GTM Reserve.

Andrew will provide the written data provided by the volunteers to the Friends. The training for identification and information gathering is ongoing so the information currently available is possibly not as thorough as what will be available in the future. Andrew described how the data was gathered. The volunteers meet in the morning and are given instruction. They then do a transect. They return to the EEC for lunch and another training period. In the afternoon the team will go out again.

One of the proposed uses for the information gathered is to set up a board in the main hall of the EEC to list the Butterflies seen each month.

Andrew was invited to keep the Board informed about the project.

### **Research Reserve Update by Mike Shirley**

There is still no date for the building repairs. The latest contractor selected by the state has a license issue.

There is a lot of talk in the area about National Estuaries Day. There is interest in a proclamation in St Johns County. The proclamation has some good facts about estuaries, their importance to the area, and what we can do to ensure their health.

Mike S thanked Pierre for his service as President.

### **Other Business**

Tom Barry did a report on this area that included Sanchez Mound. There were several artifacts taken from the mound that have been traced to a Museum in New York. The artifacts taken from the mound include the remains of as many as 20 Indians.

Pierre has been researching the possibility of getting those artifacts back here. He has found the Federal Indian Remains Recovery Act. If a descendent of the remains included in the artifacts can be found the artifacts and remains may be returned to that descendent. To date no descendents have come forward.

Pierre will be in New York next month and will look into the issue further.

Mike S, Pierre, and Tom Barry will meet before Pierre leaves to discuss the best way to proceed.

Other cont.

Angie described a possible fund raiser for 2010 that can be tied to the 10th anniversary, a fun run through the reserve. The group that would organize the run has done runs here before and is familiar with the rules and the need to protect the reserve.

Pierre will continue as the Friends of the GTM Reserve representative on the MAG Board.

Jonathan discussed committee assignments and asked the Board members to join the committees that interest them.

Peter reminded those present to think about who they know that could contribute to the Board as Board members or Friends of the GTM Reserve members that could serve on committees.

The volunteers at the GTM Research Reserve are another group to approach to become Friends members and committee members.

Pierre adjourned the meeting at 5:00pm

Jonathan motioned to adjourn

Nancy seconded all approved none opposed, meeting adjourned

The next Friends of the GTM Reserve Board meeting will be October 13, 2009