

## **Friends of the GTM NERR**

**Minutes of Board Meeting: Tuesday, October 11, 2009**

**Members Present:**

**Jonathan Katzen, Nancy Schachnovsky, Chris Rich, Kay Henderson,  
Peter Difatta, Irene Kaufman, Carl Hampp, Triss Padgett, Rob  
Matthews, Ellyn Cavin**

**Staff Present:**

Teri Webley, Mike Shirley, Janet Zimmerman

**Excused Absence:**

Mike Timpane, Pierre Pierce, Anita Pierce

**Guests:**

Bill and Carol Coleman, Barb Starck, Lisa Duncan

**Meeting called to order at 5:00 pm by Jonathan Katzen**

Jonathan introduced for thought to the Board members present some things of concern to all at the national, state, and local levels. Funding is the main issue of concern on national and state levels as well as off shore drilling at the state level. Locally, the building issues at the EEC, growth of the Friends of the GTM Reserve as an organization, and the retirement of several Board members over the next couple of years.

**September Meeting Minutes Approval by Jonathan Katzen**

Triss motioned to approve the September meeting minutes  
Peter seconded, all approved none objected, September meeting minutes approved.

**Check Presentation by Lisa Duncan**

Camachee Cove Yacht Harbor representative Lisa Duncan presented the Friends of the GTM Reserve with a donation. The funds were raised during the National Marina Day event at Camachee Cove in September 2009. Disbursement of the funds will be decided at a later date.

**Presentation to Bill Coleman**

Bill Coleman has reached his 6<sup>th</sup> year as a director on the Board of Directors of the Friends of the GTM Reserve. Bill served as president during the 06-07 fiscal year.

Carl described Bill's contribution to the Friends of the GTM Reserve including arranging for the donation just received from the Camachee Cove Yacht Harbor

Bill cont.

followed by the presentation of a sculpture created for the occasion by Pierre Pierce and a gift certificate to Bill's favorite restaurant.

Bill expressed his approval of the progress the Board has made over the years developing into a professional and effective group.

**Education and Communications Committee Report by Irene Kaufman**

The members of the Education and Communications Committee are:

Co-Chairs – Irene Kaufman and Triss Padgett

Chris Rich

Barb Starck

The Education and Communications Committee met today to discuss goals and objectives for the new fiscal year.

One of their primary objectives will be fund raising as well as working with the Education staff at the NERR on outreach, and other programs.

**Finance Committee Report by Kay Henderson**

Kay passed out an expanded description of the Friends of the GTM Reserve annual support allocations. These are the funds the Board voted to provide to the NERR over the 09 – 10 fiscal year.

Kay explained what information is available on the description she handed out. NERR staff member Harry Odom will provide a quarterly report of the use of the allocated funds.

Kay will provide a monthly statement of receipts and disbursements to the Board.

**Development Committee Report by Kay Henderson**

Kay passed around a sheet outlining the proposed costs of the 2009 annual fund raiser. This projection was developed with the help of Jonathan (former chair of the Development Committee)

The proposal showed costs for mailings to 15000 and 30000 recipients. Due to the current financial environment the Development Committee recommends the 15000 mailing level.

The annual fund raiser will focus on the St Augustine and Ponte Vedra areas.

One money saving measure taken will be to have the Brick form sent along with a "this is how you can help further" letter with the donation and member confirmation letters instead of in the annual fund raiser package.

The same brochure as the one used in the 2009 campaign will be used this year.

The issue of encouraging NERR volunteers to join the Friends of the GTM Reserve was discussed. A targeted letter will be sent to the NERR volunteers who are not members of the Friends of the GTM Reserve inviting them to join.

Carl motioned to approve \$5000 for the 15000 annual mailing

Development cont.

Peter seconded, none opposed, all approved.

On the subject of fund raising;

Jonathan recognized Peter's efforts in arranging for a donation received by the Friends of the GTM Reserve from VyStar Credit Union. The donation will be used to expand 3 beach kiosks.

**Research Reserve Update by Mike Shirley**

A contractor has been selected for the building repairs and that contractor has acquired all the necessary documentation to begin the project.

The repairs are expected to begin the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> week of November.

It is not yet known how the repairs will impact programs and public access to the EEC.

Security at the NERR beach parking lots has become an issue. There have been break-ins to some of the vehicles as happens all over this area.

There have been suggestions including removing the vegetation that "hides" the parking lots from the road to help reduce the chance for theft.

Because traffic moves so fast down A1A that is probably not the best solution.

Several options are being studied. On site security is one of the options being investigated.

Mike S will need to contact Tallahassee and apply for an increase in the amount of the funds collected as parking fees that the NERR can use for expenses.

Another funding source for parking lot security may be a Friends of the GTM Reserve fund raiser.

NERR staff has been involved in the Hyde Park proposed development on Favor Dykes Rd. They have added input about potential impact and benefits to planned components of the development including running sewer lines to the area and moving away from septic systems.

**Other Business**

Nancy informed the Board that the Gannet Foundation grant was not won.

Nancy has invited Davis and Davis to send a representative to the November BOD meeting to explain the changes in the IRS rules governing 501 c 3s.

Letters of thanks will be sent to Camachee Cove Yacht Harbor and VyStar Credit Union for their donations to The Friends of the GTM Reserve.

Jonathan asked the Board to think about an end of year Friends member event.

The usual event is not possible due to the condition of the building.

The Education and Communications Committee will look into possible options and Mike S will ask NERR staff to think about possible event options and pass any suggestions on to the Friends.

Jonathan adjourned the meeting at 5:55pm

Triss motioned to adjourn

Nancy seconded all approved none opposed, meeting adjourned

The next Friends of the GTM Reserve Board meeting will be November 10, 2009