



Friends of Anastasia Meeting – Thursday January 12, 2023 – Admin Building

President: Rich Gallik – Present

Vice President: Andris Duffy – Present

Secretary: Louise Gallik – Present

Treasurer: Katrina Denny – Present

Board Members - Present –Maureen Long, Mary Boutte, Bridget Blake

Board Members (absent) - Nico Recore, Cecile Nusbaum, Beth McCoy,

Park – Michael Watkins and Michelle Schenk

Members- Ann Sokol, Cathy Foriek, Richard Goldman, Laurie Gilmore, Theresa Nguyen

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.

Mission Statement: To generate supplemental resources which will provide increased recreational opportunities and further enhance protection of the natural and cultural resources of Anastasia State Park.

Minutes from December 2022 were approved.

President’s comments-

- a. Thank you to all who attend. We appreciate your ideas and volunteer enthusiasm.**
- b. Annual Program Plan has been submitted. This states our fundraising goals, including our concert series with J J Grey and Billy Strings who both donate a percent of ticket sales to the Friends of Anastasia and additional fundraisers necessary to construct our new ADA Playground. We also included plans for beach cleanups and Appreciation Dinners for volunteers and camp hosts.**
- c. Department of State- Corporate Annual Report due May 1. In the “process” by Rich and Michelle.**
- d. IRS Taxes due by May 15. We will again use Jill Atwood of Calhoun and Atwood.**
- e. Annual Legislative Report due June 1. ** Independent Financial Audit due when we reach \$300,000 in grants and donations.**
- f. Andris and I will attend the Park Managers/ CSO Meeting in Orlando January 26 & 27.**

- g. Our new commercial washers which we purchased in December have already needed repairs/ modifications. Let us hope they remain functioning for a while.**
- h. The old playground has been demolished and removed. It had been fortified with extra rebar and concrete so our Rangers requested rental of an electric jack hammer to get the job done. The Board voted and approved moving forward on the purchase of new playground equipment totaling \$150,000. More discussion is required. We have reached out to Florida State Parks Foundation for help with grants and donations or possibly a corporate sponsor. More information will be shared at the Orlando Conference. Our members have made suggestions for fundraising events. Andris Duffy will chair a committee to explore our options. Our preferred vendor, GameTime, has designed an ADA playground which would truly be accessible to wheelchair bound children. We hope to soon advertise for donations by QR codes on our website and by constructing a sign with photo of the new playground on site.**
- i. Andris reports we had 23 volunteers who attended the beach cleanup January 1 and 40 attendees who participated in the First Day Hike.**
- j. Our Park Manager Michael Watkins will be giving a presentation at the State Park Managers Conference discussing fundraising citing all of our successes and how important it is to create partnerships with those who can help you reach your goals. He also mentioned Anastasia State Park continues to be in the top 5 State Parks in revenue and attendance.**
- k. The Park Administration Building offices will be painted in the near future. Volunteers requested.**

Financial Report – Katrina sent January financials to the Board. At present we have about \$100,000 in the Friends account, this is before all bills have been paid for Endless Summer Run. Thank you to Katrina for all you do. She is working on the new budget for 2023.

Membership Report – Maureen reports our current Friends Membership continues to grow. We have about 155 members. This includes our 2022 Adopt a Nest program Nesters.

We will have a table at the Saturday Pier Market on January 28. We will be selling turtle mugs from ESR and our turtle stickers as well as past Endless Summer Run t-shirts. Volunteers needed. See you there.

Site/Facebook -Cecile. Thanks to Cecile and her company for setting creating such a professional website. SSL certificate was renewed in January.

Mary Boutte reported the St Johns County Department of Health has a campaign to promote the saving of lives from opioid addiction.

Business:

- 1. Annual Meeting needs to be scheduled - (date to be determined). Watersports Classroom building suffered water damage due to Nicole so is unavailable indefinitely. Maureen suggested possibly Library Meeting Room.**
- 2. Friends of A1A Scenic Highway has scheduled Kids Ocean Day. This year it will be held in Flagler County on April 21.**
- 3. Next Friends Meeting February 9, 2023.**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.