



Friends of Anastasia Meeting – Thursday February 9, 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, Bridget Blake

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

Park – Michael Watkins and Michelle Schenk

Members- Theresa Nguyen, Marybeth Auletto, Pete McNeill, Robert Edwards

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 January 2023 were approved.

President’s comments-

- a. Thank you to all who attend. We appreciate your ideas and volunteer enthusiasm. A special “thank you” to those members who volunteered to work on the ADA Playground Committee which Andris Duffy will chair. They include Ann Sokol, Rich Gallik, Maureen Long, Mary Boutte and Cathie Forier.**
- b. Annual Program Plan has been submitted to Tallahassee.**
- 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. Amp Update- April 14 & 15 JJ Grey Concert will donate a % of the profit to Friends of Anastasia (same as last year). Billy Strings Concert April 20, 21, 22 will donate \$1.00 from each ticket sold to Friends of Anastasia and another nonprofit.**

- g. A painting project will begin at the Administration Building. Need volunteers to help paint.**
- h. Friends of Anastasia paid \$1,000.00 for sod at two locations in the Park. This comes out of our Park Maintenance Supplies Fund.**
- i. Please remember to log-in your volunteer hours on the volunteer site.**
- j. The old playground has been demolished and removed. The Board voted and approved moving forward on the purchase of new playground equipment totaling \$150,000. We have reached out to Florida State Parks Foundation for help with grants and donations or possibly a corporate sponsor. Information was shared at the Orlando Park Managers/ CSO Conference with Sarah Campbell, director of institutional giving. We also procured a copy of a brochure used by Wakulla State Park to see how other parks reach out for donations. We are currently composing our official fundraising letter. Our preferred vendor, Game Time, 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. The first meeting of the Playground Committee was held. Minutes have been posted on our Friends website. Suggestions needed on organizations that might sponsor or donate to our new ADA Playground. Meetings will be the 4th Tuesday of the Month.**
- k. Andris reported the CSO Meeting focused on getting reacquainted/ sharing ideas for projects and strategic planning for short/long term. The importance of our volunteers was stressed.**
- l. Our Park Manager Michael Watkins mentioned Anastasia State Park continues to be in the top 5 State Parks in Florida in revenue and attendance. The Park had 900,000 visitors last year. As Manager of Fort Mose he will also be supervising the construction of a replica of the old fort which will be open concept in design. Groundbreaking will be in March.**
- m. Our Live Music Events of the past may be rescheduled for this spring/ summer. In the past we had Park Volunteers, Rangers or visitors entertain us with their musical skills, singing/ strumming guitars to popular melodies. The Park Grill provided food and drink.**
Our PSS Michelle mentioned she is not always able to find enough Camp Hosts to volunteer at Anastasia especially during the summer. The Rangers have to fill in taking them away from their regular duties. If you can volunteer to assist please contact her.

Rich Gallik has been nominated for a special Volunteer Award. The ceremony will be April 7th at Washington Oaks State Park.

Financial Report – Katrina sent February financials to the Board. At present we have about \$100,000 in the Friends account. Thank you to Katrina for all you do. She is working on the new budget for 2023 as well as taxes with our CPA.

Membership Report – Maureen reports our current Friends Membership continues to grow. We have about 171 members. This includes our 2022 and 2023 Adopt a Nest program Nesters.

She reached out to Natalie’s Fruit Juice Company who is sponsoring the state-wide State Park Junior Rangers. Her thank you resulted in some samples of their juice being sent to us.

Turtle Nest Program- Bridget is organizing for the 2023 Turtle Nest Program. Members receive updates on local turtle data as well as a tote bag, insulated water jug, membership card for 12 entries into the Park.

We will have a table at the Saturday Pier Market on February 25. 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. Remember to bring a chair.

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

ESR 2023 is scheduled for Saturday, November 18, 2023.

Business:

- 1. Annual Meeting needs to be scheduled - (date to be determined). Watersports Classroom building suffered water damage due to Nicole and is being repaired**
- 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 March 9, 2023.**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.