



Friends of Anastasia Meeting – Thursday August 10th – Water Sports Classroom

President: Rich Gallik – Absent

Secretary: Louise Gallik – Present

Vice President: Andris Duffy – Present

Treasurer: Katrina Denny – Absent

Board Members - Present – Bridget Blake, Mary Boutte, Ann Sokol

Board Members (absent) - Cecile Nusbaum, Beth McCoy

Park – Michael Watkins

Members- Theresa Nguyen, Maureen Long, Robert Edwards, Cathie Forier, Laurie Gilmore, Jessica Glenn, Marie Montano, Megan Swift, Austin Norris, Paxton Beidle, Nate Beidle

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Andris Duffy.

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 June 2023 approved.

President’s comments-

- a. Thank you to all who attend. We appreciate your ideas and volunteer enthusiasm. Please remember to enter your volunteer hours on the Florida State Parks website. If you do not have an account set up please contact PSS Michelle Schenck.**
- b. We renewed our Liability and D & O Insurance with Herbie Wiles for \$1,427.75 in July 2023. Our new contact there is Laurie Stavrojohn, Account Manager.**
- c. The PSS offices have been relocated to the Ranger Station to make room for a Park Planning office at the Administration Building. Michelle’s office will now be located there as well as the office for the new PSS. Michelle’s monthly Anastasia State Park activities List has a QR code with direct access to the Park website as well as our donation site.**

- d. Michael reports the Park is ready for the end of summer season. The Park grounds have been given a clean up as well as sprayed for mosquitoes after the heavy rains we have had. He has been preparing for the beach renourishment project (Turtle nests that have not hatched will have to be relocated). The Board has given approval for four Trail Counters for the Park. \$3000.00 will be added to the PMS account.**
- e. The Florida State Parks Foundation will fund a new ADA mobi mat for the beach entrance. The old mat was in disrepair.**

Financial Report – Due to unforeseen events Katrina was unable to send July financials to the Board. The budget for 2023 is on our Website. Thank you Katrina for all you do.

The Playground Committee reports success with their fundraising activities. The information packets have been designed to be given directly to a prospective sponsor or to be sent to them online. We appreciate the generosity and financial support of our St Augustine community. Our efforts have netted \$99,443.68 so far. Many more funds need to be raised before our ADA Playground nears construction. We are attending local events to make the community more aware of our project and Maureen and Andris recently spoke to the St Augustine Commissioners about our Playground Project and how important Anastasia State Park is to the City and County. Thank you to Maureen and Ann for your spread sheets keeping us up to date on funds received for the playground and other projects.

Membership Report – Maureen reports our current Friends Membership continues to grow. We have about 217 members. Thank you to Maureen and Ann Sokol for their management of the membership roster.

Turtle Nest Program- Bridget: Turtle Nest Season continues until October. There are currently 94 nests on our beach. Please join our Program. A membership makes a great gift and benefits our sea turtles as well as the Park. Members receive updates on local turtle data as well as a tote bag, insulated water glass, membership card for 12 entries into the Park. Bridget will post updates on Facebook relating to their activity.

We will have an information table at the Saturday Amp Market on August 26, 8am to 12:30. We will be selling our turtle stickers as well as past Endless Summer Run t-shirts for \$20.00. We will also be talking about our new ADA Playground Project. See you there. Remember to bring a chair.

We will also have a table at the Marina Munch Boardwalk Bazaar the last Friday of each month starting August 25th. We will be selling t-shirts, stickers and have a raffle. Maureen has donated two turtle costumes to help us advertise our ADA Playground at the Turtle Pavilion. We now have Turtle Ambassadors!

Plans are in the works for a Camp Host, Volunteer and Ranger Appreciation Luncheon in October. We are thankful for all of the people who make our Park the Special Place it is.

There has been a suggestion to add a Book Drop Box at the Park for our campers and volunteers. I am sure that would be a very practical addition.

Site/Facebook -Cecile. Thanks to Cecile and her company for creating such a professional website. Thank you for creating our QR codes. All information relating to our ADA Playground is now accessible from our website.

We will be updating our Board Membership roster on the website and listing our Corporate Sponsors.

Endless Summer Run 2023 is scheduled for Saturday, November 18, 2023. This is our 20th year. We have a new colorful turtle logo. Sign-ups have begun. You may access Don's Friends website (www.DonsFriend.com) for additional information. Jim and Renee have been busy organizing the event as well as lining up sponsors. Andris will again be crafting a beautiful turtle quilt for our Silent Auction which will run for two days, November 17 in the afternoon during packet pick up and Saturday November 18 during the Run in the morning.

Business:

- 1. The Annual Meeting still needs to be scheduled - (date to be determined).**
- 2. Next Friends Meeting September 14, 2023 at 6pm.**
- 3. Volunteers needed for Ravine Gardens Spooktacular October 28.**
- 4. International Coastal Cleanup Day September 16, 8-11am.**
- 5. Amp Night Market September 19, 5-9pm.**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.