



Friends of Anastasia Meeting – Thursday October 12th – Water Sports Classroom

President: Rich Gallik – Present

Secretary: Louise Gallik – Present

Vice President: Andris Duffy – Present

Treasurer: Katrina Denny – Present

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, Jessica Glenn, Megan Swift, Bruce Cathcart, Lorie Thomas, Zila Wapinski, Cindy Wasserbauer

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.

Our Friends of Anastasia membership has become a very important fundraising machine as we endeavor to provide our community with a wheelchair accessible, sensory and ground-level play ADA Playground. Thank you to all who have contributed.

Minutes from August 2023 were approved. There was no September meeting.

President's comments-

- a. Thank you to all who attend. We appreciate your ideas and volunteer enthusiasm. We have provided information about Anastasia State Park, its many assets, and our plans for a new ADA Playground to those attending National Night Out and at our monthly table at Marina Munch Boardwalk Bazaar at English Landing, and Amp Saturday Market. We have received a very positive response from the community. A special thanks to Maureen Long for her creative spin game which she used to entertain and educate children and adults about Anastasia wildlife at National Night Out.**
- b. 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 Schenk. (904) 461-2035. Also a reminder to update training and sign paperwork on volunteer portal.**

- c. **Andris reports the Florida State Park Foundation is selling mugs on line for a donation of \$30.00. Also the Florida State Park Foundation Annual Meeting is October 25th on Zoom. This will be a recap of 2023. The Volunteer, Camp Host and Ranger thank you luncheons are in the planning stages. A committee needs to be formed to manage these events as well as research “swag” gifts for the attendees: key chains, lip gloss, stickers. Also, Megan Swift will provide updates to our calendar of events and coordinate with PSS Michelle. She also discussed a future Photo Contest as a fundraiser for the playground with photos possibly being used in a calendar.**
- d. **The Junior Service League of St Augustine has reached out through Andris to announce their annual Feel the Wheels Event for children to be held November 4. This is a charity event and serves local non-profits. Mary Boutte has offered to help.**
- e. **Michael reports many projects currently in the works. The site is being prepared for new Ranger housing. Planning continues for the Ft Mose replica. A State Biologist has been doing a survey of the Anastasia Beach Mouse population. They are a protected species.**
- f. **Michelle would like to purchase a Beach Scoop which would facilitate beach clean-ups by picking up microplastics from the sand. These could possibly be used during January 1st Day Beach Cleanup. Research is necessary before purchase.**
- g. **The Florida State Parks Foundation will fund a new ADA mobi mat for the beach entrance. The old mat was in disrepair.**

Financial Report – Katrina reported financials to the Board. Our bank balance is \$184,087.49. The budget for 2023 is on our Website. Thank you Katrina for all you do.

The Playground Committee reports our fundraising efforts have netted \$101,254.11 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. Thank you to Maureen and Ann for your spread sheets keeping us up to date on funds received for the playground and other projects.

A vote was taken to spend \$62,399.17 to purchase playground components and receive an early purchase discount. These components will be delivered in December. The second installment will include preparation of site and installation of complete playground. The Board voted to approve purchase of components. Fundraising will continue until we reach our goal that will fund final construction.

Membership Report – Maureen reports our current Friends Membership continues to grow. We have about 220 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. 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 October 28, 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. October 27 is the next Bazaar 5-9pm. 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!

Website/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.

Ann Sokol announced Belk's Charity Sale Fundraiser. Purchase a \$5.00 coupon, use towards a purchase November 3-5. Shop early and reserve your purchase. Ann reports we have sold \$505.00 in coupons.

Business:

- 1. The Annual Meeting still needs to be scheduled - (date to be determined).**
- 2. Next Friends Meeting November 9, 2023 at 6pm.**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.