



## **Friends of Anastasia Meeting – Thursday November 9<sup>th</sup> – Water Sports Classroom**

**President: Rich Gallik – Present**

**Secretary: Louise Gallik – Present**

**Vice President: Andris Duffy – Absent**

**Treasurer: Katrina Denny – Present**

**Board Members - Present – Mary Boutte, Ann Sokol**

**Board Members (absent) - Cecile Nusbaum, Beth McCoy**

**Park – Michael Watkins, Michelle Schenk**

**Members- Theresa Nguyen, Maureen Long, Robert Edwards, Jessica Glenn, Megan Swift, Cindy Wasserbauer, Richard Goldman**

**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 October 12, 2023 were approved.**

**President's comments-**

- a. Thank you to all who attend our Monthly Board Meetings. We appreciate your ideas and volunteer enthusiasm. Each volunteer is a special asset. We have provided information about Anastasia State Park, its many resources, the wildlife and our plans for a new ADA Playground to those visiting our table at Marina Munch Boardwalk Bazaar at English Landing the last Friday of the month, and Amp Saturday Market on the last Saturday of the month. We always have an interesting Raffle Basket on hand for you. We have received a very positive response from the community. Thank you to the members who volunteer their time at these events.**

- Also a very big thank you to Mary Boutte and Cathie Forier who volunteered to represent Friends of Anastasia State Park at the Junior Service League's annual Feel the Wheels event. About 800 children attended November 4<sup>th</sup> and enjoyed a fun day.
- b. Ann Sokol sold \$5.00 coupons to Belk's Charity Sale Fundraiser November 3-5 and collected \$400.00 in donations for Friends' CSO. Our local Belk's has contributed heavily with donations to our Endless Summer Run Silent Auction.
  - c. Michael Watkins our Park Manager reports it is time to plan for a new year. 2024 Financial Planning, Budget and Land Management reviews are all under discussion. How can we best improve the Park? Lots of paperwork ahead.
  - d. Michelle Schenk hosted a Volunteer Luncheon for our Camp Hosts and Bird Stewards recently. We appreciate the work they do and services they provide.
  - e. 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. Those volunteers who have worked 250 hours were presented with a special volunteer Park Pass.
  - f. Rich introduced Richard Goldman who is a Board Member of Florida State Parks Foundation. He mentioned that the Board had increased the size of grants available up to \$200,000 in 2024. A grant application is something our Friends Board should definitely consider as we continue raising funds for the ADA Playground.

**Financial Report – Katrina reported financials to the Board. Our bank balance is \$173,090.99. The budget for 2023 is on our Website. Thank you Katrina for all you do.**

**The Playground Committee reports our fundraising efforts have netted \$102,330.11 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. The plans for the Playground are posted online.**

**Membership Report – Maureen reports our current Friends Membership continues to grow. We have about 216 members. Thank you to Maureen and Ann Sokol for their management of the membership roster.**

**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 20<sup>th</sup> year. Also our Silent Auction will run for two days, November 17 in the afternoon during packet pick up 2 'til 6pm and Saturday November 18 during the Run in the morning. Tickets to the Bret Michaels Concert at the Amp, tickets to Demitri Martin at Ponte Vedra Concert Hall, a 2 Night Stay at Guy Harvey Resort, restaurant gift cards, and numerous gift baskets will be available for bid. Winners will be notified around 9:15. Cash, check or credit card will be accepted.**

**Maureen Long and Tim Tooker have organized volunteers and scheduled job assignments. This year we have 58 volunteers, including Girl Scouts. A schedule has been published. Check with Maureen for your assignment. Arrive by 7am to find close-in parking.**

- 1. The Annual Meeting still needs to be scheduled - (date to be determined).**
- 2. Next Friends Meeting// No December, 2023 Meeting. See you in January.**

**Meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.**