



Friends of Anastasia Meeting – Thursday January 11th – Water Sports Classroom

President: Rich Gallik – Present

Secretary: Louise Gallik – Present

Vice President: Andris Duffy –Present

Treasurer: Katrina Denny – Present

Board Members - Present – Ann Sokol, Theresa Nguyen, Jessica Glenn, Bridget Blake

Board Members (absent) - Cecile Nusbaum

Park – Michael Watkins, Michelle Schenk

Members- Maureen Long, Robert Edwards, Greg Smith, Cathie Forier, Bruce Cathcart

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 November 9, 2023 were approved. There was no December Meeting.

President’s comments-

a. Thank you to all who attend our Monthly Board Meetings. We appreciate your ideas and volunteer enthusiasm. We started 2024 with a First Day Hike and First Day Beach Cleanup on January 1st. Both were very well attended. Last year we began planning and fundraising for our new wheelchair accessible ground level ADA Playground at the Sea Turtle Pavilion. We have provided information about Anastasia State Park, its many resources, the wildlife and our plans for the 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 4th Saturday of the month. We have received a very positive response from the community. Thank you to the members who volunteer their time at these events.

b. Michelle, Michael and I have completed the Annual Program Plan for 2024 and sent it to District. Our goal is to raise \$102,500.00 this year by selling our very popular Turtle Stickers and Turtle Nester Sponsorships, realizing profits from our annual Endless Summer Run and Silent Auction, expanding Corporate Sponsorships from the

Community as well as applying for Grants from Charitable Resources. We would need \$85,000.00 (\$115,000.00 has already been raised) to completely fund the Playground construction plus additional funds to provide for the Park Maintenance Account, Volunteer and Ranger Appreciation Dinners and miscellaneous expenses.

c. Andris reports we will receive a grant of \$2,500.00 from the Junior Service League of St Augustine. We will also be working on a grant from the Florida State Park Foundation. Possible fundraisers for the playground may include a Photo Contest/ Park Calendar. Both would need some research and planning.

d. Our Park Manager Michael Watkins says that Beach Renourishment will begin in mid-February and finish in March. It will start at the Pier and continue north to the inlet. The pump by the gift shop needs repair. The restrooms will need to be closed. The Board voted to pay for 2 porta-potties for \$400.00.

e. Our PSS Michelle Schenck announced a Walk on the Wild Side February 6 specifically for CSO Members. This will be a 2 hour walk beginning at 10am. She also proposed stickers for First Day Event attendees.

f. 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. (904) 461-2035. Also a reminder to update training and sign paperwork on volunteer portal.

Financial Report – Katrina reported financials to the Board. Our bank balance is \$139,693.17. An initial check to GameTime for \$62,399.17 for the playground cleared November1, 2023. Thank you Katrina for all you do.

The Playground Committee update: Thank you to Maureen and Ann for meeting with City of St Augustine City Manager David Birchim. The city will donate \$2,500.00 for the playground. The plans for the Playground are posted online.

A sign has been proposed for the site of the new playground announcing its future construction and possibly including a photo. Suggestions and ideas welcome.

Membership Report – Maureen reports our current Friends Membership continues to grow. We have about 220 members (includes life, corporate, nonprofit and regular). Thank you to Maureen and Ann Sokol for their management of the membership roster.

Bridget reports the Turtle Nester Program has its first member of 2024 plus 2 memberships purchased at the end of 2023.

Endless Summer Run will be held on Saturday - November 23, 2024.

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.

Jessica Glenn and Theresa Nguyen were nominated to join the Board. Both were approved. We will be updating our Board Membership roster on the website and listing our Corporate Sponsors.

Volunteer Events:

**SJC Trash Bash Cleanup will be January 19 (1pm-4pm) at
Mickler's Landing
GTMNERR South Beach
North Beach Park
Vilano Beach
St Augustine Beach Pier
Crescent Beach
Ft Matanzas Beach**

**Marina Boardwalk Bazaar will be January 26th (4:45pm-8pm)
Amp Market will be January 27th (7:45am-12:30pm).
Feel the Wheels- Jr Service League of St Augustine- November 9, 2024 12noon-4pm**

- 1. Annual Meeting still needs to be scheduled - (date to be determined).**
- 2. Next Friends Meeting February 8, 2024 at 6pm.**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.