



Friends of Anastasia General Meeting – Thursday May 9, 2024 – 6pm Water Sports Classroom

President: Rich Gallik – Present

Secretary: Louise Gallik – Present

Vice President: Ann Sokol –Present

Treasurer: Katrina Denny – Absent

Board Members - Present – Theresa Nguyen, Mary Boutte, Andris Duffy

Board Members (absent) – Bridget Blake, Cathie Forier, Jessica Glenn Park – Michelle Schenk (present) & Michael Watkins (absent)

Members- Maureen Long, Robert Edwards, Paul Dixon, Bruce Cathcart, Marta Haun

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 Park was established on March 14, 1949 and is now celebrating 75 years serving our community.

Minutes from April 11, 2024 were approved.

President’s comments-

- a. Thank you to all who attend our Monthly Board Meetings. We appreciate your ideas and volunteer enthusiasm. We continue to plan and organize our fundraising efforts for our new wheelchair accessible ground level ADA Playground at the Sea Turtle Pavilion. Our Playground Fund continues to grow thanks to our very supportive community. We still have an information 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. Thank you to the members who volunteer their time at these events and create unique ways to educate the community about our goals and the Park attributes. Thank you also to our “turtle mascots” Anastasia and Shelley (Jessica Glenn & Mary Boutte) for their devotion to our cause.**

b. We have received donations totaling \$144,256.16 as of 4/30/2024. Our total for April was \$4,508.00.

Our volunteers have been busy raising awareness of our Park assets as well as fundraising for our ADA Playground. We are hoping the busy summer tourist season results in many new donations. Bruce Cathcart will help canvas some healthcare agencies for possible donations.

c. The month of May will be a busy one for our volunteers as they attend and organize our Anastasia State Park location at the County-wide Turtletown Beach Clean-up May 11, 8am to 12pm, maintain a booth at the J J Grey Concert, May 25 & 26 from 3:30pm each day as well as man our table at the Saturday Market May 24, 8:00am to 12:30.

d. Rich, Ann and Michelle will be working on the 2024 Legislative Report detailing our volunteer hours, expenditures to help with upgrades and repairs at the Park, future plans for Park amenities, and our programs which help educate about our resources, wildlife and recreational opportunities.

Park Update:

- a. Our Park Services Specialist Michelle and volunteers reported how successful Kids Ocean Day was on April 18. It is held in conjunction with A1A Scenic Highways each year. Our volunteers reported how satisfying it is to give back to the community through learning opportunities with the local children. The coloring books were a big hit.**
- 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 Schenck. (904) 461-2035. Also a reminder to update training and sign paperwork on volunteer portal. The construction of two new Ranger Residences on Park property may soon begin. The Beach Renourishment Project is still delayed until after bird nesting season. Also the FWC required a special permit from the contractor.**

Financial Report – Katrina will send statements to the Board. Our bank balance is \$150,401.10. Thank you Katrina for all you do.

The Playground Committee update: Thank you to Maureen and Ann for meeting with various City and County administrators to make them aware of the importance of our new ADA Playground. The plans for the Playground are posted online.

Membership Report – Maureen reports our current Friends Membership continues to grow. We have about 218 members (includes life, corporate, nonprofit and regular). Thank you to Maureen and Ann Sokol for their management of the membership roster.

Bridget- the Turtle Nester Program -Three levels of participation:

Individual/Family \$50.00

Small Business Corporate \$100.00

Large Business Corporate \$250.00

Please see Friends of Anastasia website for details. Help educate, conserve and monitor endangered sea turtles through this Program.

Endless Summer Run will be held on Saturday - November 23, 2024. Runners have already started to sign up for the Run and our race partners Don's Friends have signed up Brooks Rehab as a new sponsor.

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.

Volunteer Events:

Amp Market will be May 24 (7:45am-12:30pm).

Feel the Wheels- Jr Service League of St Augustine- November 9, 2024-12noon-4pm

Turtletown USA Beach Cleanup May 11, multiple sites throughout the county including Anastasia State Park.

New Business- Maureen discussed a new Point of Sale system called PayPal Zettle. Geared toward non-profits offering lower surcharges per transaction.

Our next Board Meeting will be June 13 at 6pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.