



Friends of Anastasia General Meeting – Thursday June 13, 2024 – 6pm Water Sports Classroom

President: Rich Gallik – Present

Secretary: Louise Gallik – Present

Vice President: Ann Sokol –Present

Treasurer: Katrina Denny – Present

Board Members - Present – Theresa Nguyen, Andris Duffy, Bridget Blake, Cathie Forier

Board Members (absent) – Mary Boutte, Jessica Glenn

Park – Michelle Schenk & Michael Watkins

Members- Maureen Long, Robert Edwards, Bruce Cathcart, Megan Swift, Lillian Brady

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 May 9, 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 for our ADA Playground totaling \$167,010.00 as of 5/31/2024. Our total for May was \$1876.26. We have to raise \$32,990.00 to meet our final goal before construction can begin. We would like to thank Billie Strings and JJ Grey for their generous donations to our Playground Fund.**
- c. The month of May was a busy one for our volunteers as they worked our Anastasia State Park location at the County-wide Turtletown Beach Clean-up May 11. A generous donor offered \$5.00 for every pound of trash collected. We received a check for \$956.25. Thank you for your generosity. Volunteers also maintained a booth at the J J Grey Concert, May 25 & 26 as well as manned our table at the Saturday Market May 24, 30. Our turtle mascots Anastasia and Shelley have become very, very popular at these events. See photo on our website. Chants of “turtles, turtles, turtles” broke out at the JJ Grey Concert. As our summer heat starts to climb hope they can take a much needed rest.**
- d. Rich, Ann and Michelle submitted 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. Our Endless Summer Run is a major fundraising contribution to the Park. Also our 2312 volunteer hours for the year is a testament to our volunteers’ enthusiasm and dedication to Anastasia State Park. A copy of the Report will be posted online.**

Park Update:

- a. Rich Gallik (CSO President) and Michael Watkins (Park Manager) attended the District 3 Park Manager/ CSO President Meeting at Wekiwa Springs Youth Camp May 31st. They had the opportunity to share Park achievements and future plans. Our yearly ESR fundraising event in partnership with Don’s Friends was commended for being such a well-managed event. Our Park Website received kudos also.**
- 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 Beach Renourishment Project is delayed until September 1st after bird nesting season has abated. Any turtle nests not yet hatched will be relocated. You may watch progress on the Renourishment Project at Pier Park by logging on to the Embassy Suites webcam.**
- c. Michelle notes we are having an exceptional bird nesting year. 300 bird nests have been counted and there is much activity throughout the Park. She also announced, through our new updated website, you may apply directly for volunteer projects or obtain more information about volunteer opportunities.
Awards were given to Katrina for 250 hours of volunteer time, Theresa and**

Ann for 500 hours, Maureen for 1000 hours, Andris for 4000 hours and Rich for 8000 hours. Congratulations to all.

- d. The Park recently had a prescribed burn which rids the landscape of invasive species and encourages new growth of native plants. During the process the area experienced 13 mph winds. Thankfully the smoke was blown out to sea.**

Financial Report – Katrina sent statements to the Board. Our bank balance is \$156,700.78. Thank you Katrina for all you do.

The Playground Committee update: Thank you to Maureen and Ann for all your hard work continuing to educate about and advertise the benefits of this great project. The plans for the Playground are posted online.

Our “Friend” and lifetime member Sara Zeilman appeared on “904 Now” with Davey & Pete on June 11th and chatted about our ADA Sea Turtle Playground Project. She explained how our playground would provide accessible play for all children and what a special fundraising project it was for the community as well as a welcome addition to the Park’s amenities.

Beaver Toyota has put our ADA Playground Fundraiser in their Community Spotlight for the month of June. A total of up to \$5,000.00 in donations will be matched.

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.

Summer Night Market at the Amp will be held on June 18, 2024. 5:00 to 9:00pm. Music by One Good Ring on the Front Porch Stage.

Saturday Amp Market June 22, 2024 8am to 11am.

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 several new sponsors. As always there is a fantastic new design for the race shirt.

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 June 22 (7:45am-12:30pm).

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

Our next Board Meeting will be July 11 at 6pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.