



Friends of Anastasia General Meeting – Thursday July 11, 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, Andris Duffy, Cathie Forier, Jessica Glenn, Mary Boutte

Board Members (absent) – Bridget Blake

Park – Michael Watkins

Members-Martha Haun, Bob Sileo, Laurie Gilmore, Robert Edwards

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 June 13, 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 have an information table at the Amp Saturday Market on the 4th Saturday of the month. Thank you to the members who volunteer their time at our 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 funds totaling \$12,000 for our ADA Playground through Beaver Toyota's Community Spotlight. Our Playground Project was highlighted on their website for the month of June. The Beaver dealership matched any donations up to \$5000. Thank you for your assistance and donation. Also thank you to Andris for reaching out to Beaver. We have also received \$500 from The Bailey Group. Fundraising is continuing as we strive to reach our ultimate goal of \$200,000.**
- c. Thank you to our Bird Steward Volunteers for safe-guarding our nesting birds and for educating the public about their nesting habits and providing general information.**
- d. Rich and Michelle submitted the 2024 PCI Report.**

Park Update:

- a. Michael reported the Park is fully staffed for our busy summer season. Part time positions are available at the Ranger Station for \$16.00/hour. Plus there is always an opportunity for future full-time employment.**
- 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. Our 2312 hours posted for the year is a testament to our volunteers' dedication to Anastasia State Park. The Beach Renourishment Project is delayed until after September 1st when 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. We will be receiving 1 million cubic feet of sand!!!**
- c. It was noted we are having an exceptional bird nesting year. 300 bird nests have been counted and there is much activity throughout the Park. You may also apply directly for volunteer projects or obtain more information about volunteer opportunities directly through our website.**
- d. Our Friends of Anastasia CSO recently assisted the Park in purchasing six golf cart batteries for \$1,091.70 and PSS supplies for \$2,500. A new crosswalk and signage have been installed at the new trail and we have installed a new mobility mat at the entrance to the beach.**

Financial Report – Katrina sent statements to the Board. Our bank balance is \$179,386.00. 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.

Ann announced that our All-Inclusive Sea Turtle ADA Playground Project is being featured on the Florida State Park Foundation's website during the month of July which is Disability Pride Month.

Membership Report – Our current Friends Memberships continue to grow. We have about 229 members (includes life (53), corporate and nonprofit (8) and regular (168). Thank you to Maureen and Ann Sokol for their management of the membership roster.

Bridget- the Turtle Nester Program – Remember to protect our Sea Turtles through participation in the Program:

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 July 27 7:45am-12:30pm.

National Night Out October 1, 2024 5:00 8:00pm

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

St Augustine Christmas Parade – December 7, 2024 -11:30- noon

Our next Board Meeting will be August 8 at 6pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.