



## **Friends of Anastasia General Meeting – Thursday August 8, 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, Cathie Forier, Jessica Glenn, Mary Boutte**

**Board Members (absent) – Bridget Blake**

**Park – Michael Watkins. Michelle Schenck**

**Members- Richard Goldman, 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 July 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 have an information table at the Amp Saturday Market on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month and at other events throughout the year. 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. They are taking a well- deserved rest. Too hot!!**

**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 \$5,000. Thank you for your assistance and donation. Also thank you to Andris for reaching out to Beaver. We have also received \$500.00 from The Bailey Group and \$1,000.00 from Bozard Ford. We hope to soon be notified of receiving grant confirmation from the Delores Barr Weaver Foundation for \$25,000.00. This would be a wonderful addition to our ADA Playground Fund as we strive to reach our ultimate goal of \$200,000 plus extra dollars necessary for maintenance and the future purchase of additional playground components.**

**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. We had an open discussion about using either Friends Checks or the Friends Debit Cards when purchasing items, rather than Board Members using their personal credit cards to purchase items for Friends. This way the purchases will be made to the business rather than a reimbursement check going to the board member. In all cases documentation is required for all purchases so Katrina can make sure the items are charged to the correct account.**

**e. We have renewed our Liability Insurance Policy for Friends Events through Herbie Wiles Insurance in the amount of \$ 1,033.30. Have also renewed membership to Florida State Parks Foundation for \$100.00.**

#### **Park Update:**

**a. Michael reported part time positions are available at the Ranger Station for \$16.00/hour. The Park will also be advertising for a full time Ranger.**

**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 2,312 hours posted for the year is a testament to our volunteers' dedication to Anastasia State Park. Our volunteer hours are also counted towards our standing for the National State Park Award. Please be advised that inactivity on your volunteer site may result in erasure. Also volunteers are covered under Park Insurance, if you have no footprint you may not be covered.**

**The Beach Renourishment Project is delayed until after September 1<sup>st</sup> when bird nesting season has abated. Any turtle nests not yet hatched will be relocated to the northern end of the Park. However, most of the nests have now hatched. 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!!! They will be starting at the Pier and working north to our boardwalk.**

- 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 2 new commercial dryers and 2 new commercial washers for the Camp Hosts. These cost \$4,674.00 from OEM Laundry Parts in Jacksonville. There was also a discussion about adding extra money to the PMS Fund for other expenditures. The board voted to add \$10,000 for other expenses. In the future the Park will need new ATV's/ golf carts.**

**Financial Report – Katrina sent statements to the Board. Our bank balance is \$174,788.98. 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.**

**Also there will be an educational FOA presentation on Anastasia State Park CSO and ADA Inclusive Playground Project for the Rotary Club at Riverhouse September 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 am.**

**Membership Report – Our current Friends Memberships continue to grow. We have about 236 members (includes life (54), corporate and nonprofit (9) and regular (173). 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. Plans are being made for the Annual Silent Auction which is held in conjunction with the Run.**

**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:**

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**Amp Market will be August 24 7:45am-12:30pm.**

**Fall Night Market @ the Amp 5-9pm**

**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 - 7:30am**

**Our next Friends Meeting will be September 12 at 6pm.**

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