



## **Friends of Anastasia General Meeting – Thursday September 12, 2024 – 6pm Water Sports Classroom**

**President: Rich Gallik – Present**

**Secretary: Louise Gallik – Present**

**Vice President: Ann Sokol –Absent**

**Treasurer: Katrina Denny – Present**

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

**Board Members (absent) – Bridget Blake, Mary Boutte, Jessica Glenn  
Park – Michael Watkins.**

**Members- Robert Edwards, Bruce Cathcart, Megan Swift, Nickie Gorce, Cindy Wasserbauer,  
Kathy Cokier, Chuck Wiecking, Donna S**

**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 August 8, 2024 were amended and approved. Motion from Andris and second from Cathie approved by all.**

### **President’s comments-**

- a. Thank you to all who attend our Monthly Board Meetings. We appreciate your ideas and volunteer enthusiasm. 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. This month on Tuesday 9/17 we will also attend the Amp Night Market 5-9pm with information about Anastasia State Park, FOA membership, monthly nature hikes and the ADA Playground. On September 21 and 22 Friends will have a table at the Sing Out Loud concerts at Francis Field. 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. Rich discussed the Anastasia State Park Annual Program Plan for Citizen Support Organizations for 2024. Our goal for the year is to raise \$102,500 for Park enhancements and the remaining funds necessary to start construction of our ADA Playground at Sea Turtle Pavilion.**
- c. We have been notified of a grant confirmation from the Delores Barr Weaver Legacy Fund Foundation for \$25,000.00. As per the contract this check will be sent directly to GameTime the playground installer. Thank you to the Florida State Park Foundation for assistance. We also received \$5000.00 from Doug Wiles. Thank you for your generosity.**
- d. Katrina and Rich have completed the 2024 Budget. Copies were handed out. We reviewed the different line items and explained that the Code Number next to the item is how Katrina enters transactions into the financials. The Annual Program Plan for CSOs is used to identify budget items. This report is due in January every year. The Board and attending members approved the 2024 budget. Rich noted it would be added to our website.**
- e. Rich mentioned that our successful fundraising for the playground has drawn attention and kudos to Anastasia State Park. We have received notice from District and received outreach from other State Parks asking for direction in raising funds for their own playground, most recently from Lake Griffin State Park in Fruitland, Florida. We have also assisted De Leon State Park in creating their own 5k Run as our Endless Summer 10k/ 5k Run has been successful for 21 years in helping raise money for Anastasia State Park enhancements.**
- f. The Unit Management 10 Year Plan was discussed. There is a goal to increase attendance by possibly adding more campgrounds, cabins, improving restrooms and updating signage. Public input is helpful. Attention has been directed at the State Parks for unpopular additions suggested by Tallahassee.**

#### **Park Update:**

- a. 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 has been completed after some delays. Birds and unhatched turtle nests were moved to the north end of the park. We received 1 million cubic feet of sand!!! Pope Road will be reopened on September 18.**

- b. A new residences for Park personnel has been approved.**
- c. 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 a suggestion/recommendation to add extra money to the PMS Fund for other expenditures as the funds for Park Management Services was partially depleted. After a thorough discussion the board voted to add \$10,000 for other unexpected expenses should they arise. In the future the Park will need new ATV's/ golf carts, repairs to current vehicles, new trails, and signage.**

**Financial Report – Katrina sent statements to the Board. Our bank balance is \$199,608.90. 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.**

**Per the latest statement as of 9/12 we have raised \$195,008.74 toward our goal of \$200,000 towards the Playground. After paying GameTime \$62,399.17 last October for components our balance is \$132,609.57. Since recently receiving confirmation of the \$25,000 Delores Barr Weaver Legacy Fund Grant we have now reached our goal and can begin the process of planning for construction. The contract for the grant requires signage recognizing The Foundation. This merits further discussion as we would like to include other large donors on the signage.**

**Membership Report – Our current Friends Memberships continue to grow. We have about 271 members (includes life (58), corporate and nonprofit (10) and regular (203). 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. Many 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 –Maureen is our Contributor/ Publisher and has redesigned our Facebook Page. Thanks to Cecile and her company for managing our Website and posting minutes. All information relating to our ADA Playground is now accessible from our website.**

**Volunteer Events:**

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**Amp Market will be Sept 28 7:45am-12:30pm.**

**Fall Night Market @ the Amp 5-9pm Sept 17**

**Sing Out Loud @ Francis Field Sept 21& 22 all day**

**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 October 10 at 6pm.**

**Meeting was adjourned at 8 pm.**