



Friends of Anastasia General Meeting – Thursday November 14, 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, Mary Boutte, Jessica Glenn

**Board Members (absent) – Bridget Blake,
Park – Michael Watkins, Michelle Schenck**

**Members- Robert Edwards, Megan Swift, Nickie Gorce, Cindy Wasserbauer, Paul Dixon,
Karen Cockcroft, Lillian Brady, Maureen Long**

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 September 12, 2024 were approved. Motion from Theresa and second from Cathie approved by all. There was no October Meeting due to hurricane Milton.

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 4th Saturday of the month and at other events throughout the year. Our volunteers share information about FOA membership, monthly nature hikes, goals and the Park attributes. In September our Friends group was asked to participate with an information table at Sing Out Loud Festival a popular multi-concert musical extravaganza at Francis Field. Several of the artists were Eric Church and Norah Jones. In October we took part in the local National Night Out Event as well as the Amp Saturday Market. This month on November 9 at Feel The Wheels, put on by the Junior Service League of St Augustine, Theresa and Cathie educated the children**

through games about the wildlife and other aspects of Anastasia State Park. Our annual Endless Summer Run/Walk Silent Auction is November 22 and 23. Our next Saturday Amp Market is November 30, 8:30- 12:30. There will be no December FOA Monthly Meeting. Thank you to all of the members who volunteer their time at these events. Thank you also to our “turtle mascots” Anastasia and Shelley (Jessica Glenn & Mary Boutte) for their devotion to our cause.

b. **ADA Playground at Sea Turtle Pavilion Update.** Funds for the construction have been remitted to GameTime (Dominica Recreation Products, Inc.). Our check for \$93,114.50 plus the \$25,000 grant from The Delores Barr Weaver Foundation. We did approve the playground expenditures at the September Meeting. We are now ready to proceed with permits, site preparation and installation. In addition a Sign Language Board has been ordered as an added feature of the playground. Ann reports \$1481.68 in costs. It will be a post-playground install.

c. **The Florida State Parks Foundation is waiving the annual \$100 membership fee for State Parks’ CSOs.** Also a \$650 check will be sent to each Park to help with expenses. The money was given to the Foundation from the Trust of a deceased Florida State Park admirer.

d. **CSO and Park information: Anastasia State Park was formed in 1949.** This year we have celebrated our 75th Anniversary. Friends of Anastasia was formed in 1999. Our March 9, 2015 CSO Agreement update is between DEP the Division of Recreation and Parks and Anastasia State Park. The Anastasia State Park Manager is the Contract Manager. As volunteers we follow the CSO agreement which we sign every year. We follow the CSO Handbook’s rules and regulations.

e.

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.
- b. **Our PSS Michelle gave volunteer awards to Jessica Glenn and Cindie Wasserbauer, 250 hours and 100 hours respectively.** Maureen Long was also given a certificate of recognition for 2000 hours.
- c. **Michelle mentioned it is time to think about nominations for Volunteer of the Year.** It was suggested that we might nominate the entire ADA Playground Committee.
- d. **We had an extremely large number of least terns nesting on our beach this year, 6000 to 7000 nests.** The tiny birds fly each year from Venezuela and other South American countries. Thank you to the Audubon Bird Stewards for educating dog walkers and tourists about our nesting sites.
- e. **Michelle will be attending the Natural Resources Management Meeting in Tallahassee.** A future proposal is dune system restoration for ASP.

Financial Report – Katrina sent statements to the Board. Our bank balance is \$127,500. Thank you Katrina for all you do.

The Playground Committee update: Thank you to Maureen and Ann for all your hard work.

Our monetary goal has been realized and we can begin the process of planning for construction. Michael has been working on the necessary permits. After sending a check for the playground we can begin preparing for the playground foundation. The contract for the grant from the Delores Barr Weaver Legacy Fund requires signage recognizing The Foundation. This merits further discussion as we would like to include other large donors on the signage. Possibly a temporary sign. Andris made a motion to install a temporary sign with logos of the top donors and a QR Code and statement of appreciation for all donors. Permission must be obtained for listing of JJ Grey and Billy Strings.

We have \$49,142.98 remaining in our ADA Playground Fund. These funds will be used solely for future maintenance and improvements.

Membership Report – Our current Friends Memberships continue to grow. We have about 275 members (includes life (62), 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. Nesting will begin in spring 2025.

Endless Summer Run will be held on Saturday - November 23, 2024. Preparations are in full swing with volunteers from both Don’s Friends and Friends of Anastasia. Volunteers need to be at the park by 7am. As always there is a fantastic new design for the race shirt and bag. Our Annual Silent Auction which is held in conjunction with the Run will be Friday, November 22 from 2-6pm during Packet Pick-up and Saturday 7-8:30am on Run Day and offer some fantastic restaurant gift cards and raffle baskets.

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.

Volunteer Events:

Amp Market will be Saturday November 30 and December 28-- 7:45am-12:30pm.

Winter Night Market @ the Amp 5-9pm December 10

St Augustine Christmas Parade – December 7- 7:30am

First Day Beach Cleanup/Hike – January 1, 2025 –tentative time 8:30-10:30am- Meet at Beach Store

New Year’s Trash Bash/ Beach Cleanup Friday, January 24, 2025- 1-4pm/ St Johns County locations including Anastasia State Park

Our next Friends Meeting will be January 9, 2025 at 6pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.