



Friends of Anastasia General Meeting – Thursday January 9, 2025 – 6pm Water Sports Classroom

President: Rich Gallik – Present

Secretary: Louise Gallik – Present

Vice President: Position Open

Treasurer: Katrina Denny – Absent

Board Members - Present – Theresa Nguyen, Cathie Forier, Mary Boutte, Jessica Glenn, Bridget Blake

Board Members (absent) – Andris Duffy, Ann Sokol

Park – Michael Watkins, Michelle Schenck

Membership- Robert Edwards, Cindy Wasserbauer, Bruce Cathcart, Laurie Gilmore

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.

Minutes from November 14, 2024 Meeting were approved. There was no December General Meeting however our Friends Volunteers were still actively educating the public about the recreational opportunities and natural beauty of Anastasia State Park. They marched in the St Augustine Christmas Parade December 7, hosted the information table at the December 10 Night Market at the Amp as well as the Saturday Farmers Market December 28. A big thank you to those members who donated their time for these events during a very busy holiday season.

We have already received requests for ASP to participate in Health Fairs, the Lighthouse 5k Run, Lullabye of the Rivers Fall Festival and the Florida Marine Science Educators Conference. We will assist the Junior Service League at the Lighthouse 5k Run Saturday February 15 and provide an information table at the Lullabye of the Rivers Fall Festival Sunday February 23 to be held at the Amp. Michelle will attend the Marine Science Conference.

We will need to designate an event coordinator to manage these events.

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 monthly 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, our goals to enhance the Park and cultural and natural resources of Anastasia State Park.**
- b. **Ann Sokol has resigned from the Vice President's position effective December 31, 2024. She will remain on the Board and continue as Membership Chairman. We appreciate all that Ann has accomplished as V. P. She along with Maureen and our entire board have worked so hard to bring the fundraising efforts for the ADA Playground to its successful conclusion.**
- c. **Our January First Day Hike attracted 90 hikers. Michelle led a walk through the hammock and on Ancient Dunes Trail.**
- d. **Our January 1st Park Beach Cleanup was attended by 32 volunteers who collected over 80 pounds of litter and debris.**
- e. ****At next meeting or before need to discuss the purchase of a new Pop-up-tent for use at our events.**

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 each year. As per the CSO Volunteer Agreement we follow the CSO Handbook rules.**
- b. **Our PSS Michelle and President Rich have submitted the Annual Park Plan required by Tallahassee. It summarizes our Fundraising Goals, Park Maintenance Needs and Enhancement and Educational Goals. Copies of the Plan were handed out to Board Members.**
- c. **Michelle invited FOASP to the quarterly Volunteer Luncheon January 22, 2025 at noon.**
- d. **Michael updated us on the progress at Fort Mose. The Fort Replication is almost complete. The February Jazz and Blues Festival will highlight performers such as Kem, Tower of Power, Macy Gray and the Dirty Dozen Brass Band.**
- e. **Our ADA Playground permitting is complete. We are waiting for the contractor to schedule a start date for site work. We are anticipating the start of construction.**
- f. **The park required an emergency purchase of a sanitation lift pump. Friends of Anastasia paid the \$4067.00 because there was no time for the bid process required by Tallahassee. With 139 campsites we could not delay the repair. The option would have been to close the park. Some board members questioned why Park Headquarters in Tallahassee couldn't reimburse us for**

the cost. In the future the board would like to approve any purchase over \$2000.00. We wondered if we should keep a spare pump on hand. As part of our Budget we do appropriate for Park Maintenance Supplies.

- g. We will need to allocate funds to replace several older Camp Host Golf Carts that are having mechanical issues.

Financial Report – Katrina is on maternity leave. She welcomed baby boy Cameron on December 18, 2024. Our bank balance is \$126,298.62. Thank you Katrina for all you do.

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

Membership Report – Our current Friends Memberships continue to grow. We have about 266 members (includes life (61), corporate and nonprofit (10) and regular (195). Thank you to Ann for 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.

This year Endless Summer Run will be held on Saturday - November 15, 2025. As always there will be a fantastic new design for the race shirt and bag. We had 572 runners and walkers in this year's Event. Our Annual Silent Auction was a huge success. Combined we netted \$28,000. The proceeds will be shared with our race partners Don's Friends– Bruce Cathcart will become contributor/ Publisher of our Facebook Page. Thanks to Cecile and her company for managing our Website and posting minutes.

Volunteer Events:

Amp Market will be Saturday January 25-- 7:45am-12:30pm.

New Year's Trash Bash/ Beach Cleanup Friday, January 24, 2025- 1-4pm/ St Johns County locations including Anastasia State Park. Meet at Hilltop 1 to 4pm

Lion's Seafood Festival in March.

Our next Friends Meeting will be February13, 2025 at 6pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.