



## **Friends of Anastasia General Meeting – Thursday February 13, 2025 – 6pm Water Sports Classroom**

**President: Rich Gallik – Present**

**Secretary: Louise Gallik – Present**

**Vice President: Position Open**

**Treasurer: Katrina Denny – Present**

**Board Members - Present – Theresa Nguyen, Cathie Forier, Mary Boutte, Jessica Glenn, Ann Sokol, Andris Duffy**

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

**Park – Michael Watkins, Michelle Schenck**

**Membership- Robert Edwards, Cindy Wasserbauer, Bruce Cathcart, Megan Swift, Bill James, Diane James**

**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 January 9, 2025 Meeting were approved. They can be found on the Friends' Website.**

**Michelle presented awards for volunteer hours accrued. Among those receiving awards were Cathie, Andris, Ann and Katrina.**

**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 4<sup>th</sup> 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. Jessica Glen has volunteered to be our Event Coordinator. She passed out copies of our Friends' Event Calendar through April.**

b. **Ann Sokol resigned from the Vice President's position effective December 31, 2024. She will remain on the Board and continue as Membership Chairman. We are in need of a new Vice President.**

c. **We discussed the purchase of a new Pop-Up Tent to use at our events as the current one is older and too difficult to put up as well as take down. A basic 10x10 one-up vented canopy tent with no design logo from E Z UP was approved by the board. Ann Sokol volunteered to make the purchase. She notified the board 2/17 that she had ordered the new tent plus roller bag at President's Day Sale price 30% off. Total \$171.73.**

d.

**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.

c. **Michael updated us on the progress at Fort Mose. The Fort Replication is nearing completion. While The February Jazz and Blues Festival is ongoing with internationally acclaimed artists such as the Preservation Hall Jazz Band, Wynton Marsalis, Tower of Power, Macy Gray and the Dirty Dozen Brass Band. The first weekend of concerts was well attended. These concerts highlight the historical importance of Fort Mose and it's significance in St Augustine history.**

d. **Our ADA Playground permitting is complete. We are awaiting the contractor to schedule a start date for site work. Michael is anticipating the start of construction in late April. The project is expected to take two weeks to complete, then several days for concrete borders and PIP surfacing installation. We would like to celebrate the completion this summer with a ribbon cutting event/ceremony. A sign is still under discussion.**

e.

f. **We discussed the allocation of funds to replace several older Camp Host Golf Carts that are having mechanical issues. Rich suggested we use carts with an all-aluminum frame to withstand the erosion that happens in the salt air. There is a new Golf Cart Supply Store in St Augustine Beach {Pirate Island Carts} and Michael and Rich will meet with the store owner {Aaron Moyer} to discuss our needs. The board voted to budget \$20,000 from the General Fund to purchase two golf carts. Proper maintenance is important as these carts are used daily and need to last for several years.**

g. **Michael announced that he has gotten \$16,000 in State funding to purchase a new off-road UTV for ASP to support our conservation efforts, turtle patrols, bird surveys, etc.**

- h. Bruce spoke about our Facebook Page. He would like photos or stories from volunteers sent to him which might encourage more involvement in our volunteer program. Send to brucath@bellsouth.net**

**Financial Report – Katrina brought new baby boy Cameron to our January meeting. He is handsome and a sound sleeper. Our bank balance is \$120,955.84. There is \$49,142.98 remaining in the ADA Playground Fund. These funds will be used solely for future maintenance/improvements. Thank you Katrina for all you do.**

**Membership Report – Our current Friends Memberships continue to grow. We have about 274 members (includes life (62), corporate and nonprofit (11) and regular (202). 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:**

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**Amp Saturday Market will be February 22-- 7:45am-12:30pm.**

**Lullaby of the Rivers Fall Festival - February 23- St Augustine Amp**

**Our next Friends Meeting will be March 13, 2025 at 6pm.**

**Amp Saturday Farmers Market- March 22**

**Amp Night Market March 25**

**St Augustine Lion's Club Seafood Festival- March 29-30 Francis Field**

**Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.**