



Friends of Anastasia General Meeting – Thursday September 11, 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, Mary Boutte, Cathie Forier, Ann Sokol, Bridget Blake,

Board Members (absent) – Jessica Glenn, Andris Duffy

Park – Michael Watkins – Michelle Schenck

Membership- Robert Edwards, Cindy Wasserbauer, Richard & Sharon Goldman, Paul Davis

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. To provide an environment which benefits our community and all visitors.

Minutes from August 14, 2025 were approved.

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. Our Event Coordinator Jessica Glenn advises us of event dates and insures we have volunteers to staff them.**

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 STILL IN NEED OF A NEW VICE PRESIDENT!!!!. We should have an additional board member who should be assisting and learning the responsibilities of the CSO and necessary protocols pertaining to the Department of Environmental Protection.

c. We held an Endless Summer Run Volunteer Meeting this afternoon with Jim Waldron and Tim Tooker. The Friends will be responsible for handing out bananas, bagels and water. As always we are ready to fill in/help with any other responsibilities. We continue to add sponsors and register new runners for the Run.

a. Anastasia State Park's Four Year District Review was overwhelmingly approved. Our Park continues to remain among the top Florida State Parks visited. We are also the #2 Park in volunteer hours.

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 each year. As per the CSO Volunteer Agreement we follow the CSO Handbook rules.

c. The Park has added a new Ranger residence. It is being painted and prepped for our PSS Michelle. Our CSO paid \$770.00 for new flooring.

d. Michelle has purchased a telescope eyepiece replacement for \$275.00. This will be used by the Audubon Society for the birders. In addition our PSS Amber Hamilton-Smith would like to purchase three specialized binocular (6.5x21 lens) for viewing the Western Pigmy Blue, a very small and rare butterfly that is attracted to vegetation in Salt Run. She is working on a butterfly survey and this camera focuses on smaller details.

e. A new sign has been placed at the ADA Playground which recognizes our major donors.

f. Cape Leisure has been awarded a new contract for the Store, Watersports rentals and Snack Shop. This year they will be offering 1-6 Glamping Camp Sites for rental.

g. Michael announced that Anastasia State Park will be the location for the State Park Director Conference in late October 2026. Headquarters hotel will be Embassy Suites. Also participating will be Washington Oaks State Park and Fort Mose.

h. There is now Interpretation Training available for anyone interested in offering interpretive lectures, walks throughout the Park.

i. Michelle reports we have had over 69 turtle nests this year= 1000's of hatchlings, most loggerheads. There was one leatherneck. Our least terns were also very productive. Our State Park provides a safe habitat for our wildlife.

- j. The Board discussed the source of our CSO funding. We are thankful for our major donors through the Amphitheater, J-J Grey and Billy Strings. We rely on Friends memberships, receipts from Endless Summer Run & the Silent Auction and our popular turtle stickers.
- k. There was a discussion about posting a sign restricting e-bikes from certain areas of the Park as well as posting a speed limit.
- l. Cindy Wasserbauer who is also a volunteer at the Lighthouse told us about their online auction supporting the restoration of the Keeper's House. Bidding starts September 25 through October 10. For information visit staugustinelighthouse.org/events or call 904-829-0745. The Lighthouse will also be providing a gift bag for our Silent Auction in November.
- m. Michael reports the State Park would like to hire a part-time OPS ranger at the Ranger Station.
- n. The volunteers at the Park would like to request an ice machine. We will research pricing.

Financial Report – the Financial report was not available at the time of the Meeting.. Approximate bank balance is \$99,150.00. There is \$47,217.46 remaining in the ADA Playground Fund. These funds will be used solely for future maintenance/improvements. We have created a spreadsheet for expenses related to the playground. Thank you Katrina for all you do.

Membership Report- 228 total. Life 64, Corp & Nonprofit 11 Regular (153). 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 season is now over.

This year Endless Summer Run will be held on Saturday - November 15, 2025. Package Pick-up November 14, 2025. As always there will be a fantastic new design for the race shirt and bag. Proceeds will be shared with our race partners Don's Friends---- Runners have started signing up and many businesses have become sponsors. Our Silent Auction also runs during Packet Pick-up and during the Run on Saturday.

Dates to remember

September 16—Night Market at Amp.

Amp Market Saturday September 27 –8:00 to 13:30.

Next Meeting October 9, 2025 in the Water Sports Classroom.

Christmas Parade December 6, 2025 ** participants requested.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:00pm