



Friends of Anastasia General Meeting – Thursday July 9, 2026 – 6pm Water Sports Classroom

President: Rich Gallik – Present

Secretary: Louise Gallik – Present

Vice President: Mary Boutte - Present

Treasurer: Katrina Denny – Absent

Board Members - Present – Ann Sokol, Theresa Nguyen, Cathie Forier

Board Members (absent) – Jessica Glenn, Andris Duffy, Bridget Kurland

Membership- Robert Edwards, Rob Ori, Richard Goldman

Park- Michael Watkins, Michelle Schenk

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.

We have a quorum and approved the May 2026 and June 2026 Minutes as posted on our Website.

President's comments-

Thank you to all our volunteers. We have a dedicated group who attend our events and promote the benefits of Friends membership and explain the recreational opportunities and the protection the Park offers to our native species.

A special thank you to Cathy who made three July 4 themed baskets: two kids baskets and one adult basket for our Saturday at the Amp Market June 27. We raffled off the Adult Basket for

a Donation, the Kids Baskets were “FREE”. We raised \$108.00 in Donations for the Dream Circle.

Andris Duffy has resigned from our Board. We appreciate all she has done for Friends through the years. She will still help at events where possible.

La Casa Studios which is an event venue and creative space located on the Plaza de la Constitution in downtown historic St Augustine headed by Zach Janik will be Partnering with us in July. They have published a dedicated donation link on their servers and bartenders point of sales so they can take donations all month long. Additionally, they have created a specialty drink called “A walk in the Park” that dedicates 50% of the proceeds to us

.

Cathy will be heading up the Ancient City Kids Day at Francis Field on Saturday Oct 24, 2026 from 11am to 3pm. Note ** We also have The Amp Market that day so we will need two Groups of volunteers. Please contact Cathie to volunteer. 860 884-7128

We have received word that Friends will be receiving a check from the Amp from a percentage of sales that several Bands donate. Hopefully we will be notified soon of the amount.

Amber has resigned her PSS position at the Park and Michelle Schenk will be filling her Resource Management position. The Park will interview candidates to replace Michelle as PSS -our liaison with our CSO and as Camp Hosts director/recruiter.

Michael and Michelle reported we have had 111 turtle nests so far. One nest has hatched with 123 turtles leaving their nest. Unfortunately, the birds on our beach have been attacked by animals and have suffered.

Michelle reports a landscaping plan with native plants from Southern Horticulture has been approved for the ADA Playground. Plants and installation of two Cabbage Palms was estimated at \$5,254.90. It was suggested by Ann that we pay for the installation of all plants. The Board approved the cost of planting all landscape items. The amended total is \$7,249.90.

Our park will receive a used UTV from Blue Springs Park to replace the equipment that we have.

In July the Coquina Camp Loop will have a major rework at approx. cost of \$1,000,000. The Loop will be closed during construction.

In October 26-30, 2026, there is a Southeast Park Managers Conference being held at our park. Michael asked if the Park could borrow our three “TURTLE COSTUMES”?

FINANCIAL REPORT: Katrina is working on the report. Once complete it will be sent to the Board.

NOTE: NEED TO MAKE SURE KATRINA IS SENT (VIA EMAIL) COPIES OF ALL RECEIPTS WHEN ITEMS ARE PURCHASED ON OUR FRIENDS DEBIT CARDS.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a. **Playground:** – The ADA Playground fund is at \$39,801.83 after the purchase of plants for landscaping the playground. We voted to have Michelle check with Southern Horticulture to determine the cost to have them install/plant all items. Amended total cost \$7,249.90. The Fund is now \$37,806.83.
- b. **Membership Report:** 210 (Regular 144, Life 63, Corp & Nonprofit 3) – Thank you Ann for doing membership!
- c. **Volunteers:** Thank you to all volunteers.
- d. **Endless Summer Run-** scheduled for November 21, 2026, Endless Summer Run is now open for Registration Online. At www.DonsFRIEND.com.
- e. **Turtle Program 2026:** - Turtle Season has begun and we have had 110 nests so far.
- f. **Gopher Tortoise Circle (Dream Circle):** Still in research and discussion with District Will use premade wood/composite benches.

NEW BUSINESS:

Volunteer Opportunities:

Amp Market Saturday July 25th 8-12:30

Amp Market Saturday August 22nd 8 – 12:30

Ancient City Kids Day- Frances Field- October 24 11-3pm

NEXT MEETING – August 13th, 2026, 6pm. Watersports Classroom

OTHER BUSINESS: None

Meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm