

Friends of Barefoot Beach Preserve minutes January 5, 2009

Call to order: 9:00 a.m.

Present: Sue Turner, Harold Saylor, Margaret Winn, Betty Tryon, Barb Schimbke, Jane Duran, Jan Bachrach, Jill Kusba, Tom Crowe, Marti Timple, Bobbe Hickman, Dorothea Forier

Quorum: yes

Approval of the minutes:

Margaret had a question about who should be notified regarding the current address for the Friends. She will find out who should be notified regarding our By-laws and Articles of Incorporation. Barb Schimbke moved for approval of the December 1, 2008 minutes. Betty Tryon seconded the motion and the motion carried.

President's report: Margaret Winn

Margaret announced that Bandit, the gopher tortoise that was run over in the 2nd parking lot, was euthanized. \$400 was raised for Bandit, one check was for \$100. More money was raised than the actual cost of care for Bandit at the Conservancy of Naples, so \$250 was sent to the Conservancy and the excess money will go into our general treasury. Jan sent a check separately to the Conservancy as well in Bandit's memory.

Vice-President's report: Harold Saylor

Harold asked for nominees for our annual Shining Star and Rising Star awards. The award trophies cost \$40 each including engraving.

He thanked Jan for the new display posters and displays at the Learning Center.

Harold is purchasing a door prize for the docent-volunteer luncheon.

Corresponding Secretary: Barb Schimbke

Barb asked the BOD about thanking donors who give \$50 (broken down as \$30 membership + \$20 donation). She has not been sending thank-you notes to donors under \$100. After some discussion it was decided that a smaller thank-you card will be sent to all donors under \$100 and a larger note card will be sent to \$100 + donors.

Docent Chair: Betty Tryon

Betty has 2 new docents that are coming this Friday afternoon for an orientation, Lawrence & Kathy Gregory.

Betty asked how someone can get invitations to our luncheons and e-news.

Marti said anyone can go to our website and sign up.

Jan ordered 6 magnetic name tags with "Docent" on them. If they are done, Jan will pick them up after the meeting and put them in the main locked cabinet at the Learning Center.

More FOBB Polo shirts need to be ordered. Samples of embroidered shirts produced by Bobbe's daughter were considered but it was decided that if the cost difference between the embroidered shirts and the shirts that we currently have was too great we would continue ordering from T-shirt Express in Naples. Betty will check prices and order more Polo shirts.

Margaret brought a sample of the volunteer ranger t-shirts that we ordered for the ranger volunteer program at Barefoot Beach.

Harold suggested that we order more sweatshirts for docents/volunteers to purchase. Marti suggested that we consider buying jackets.

Lecture Series: Jill Kusba

Jill will reconfirm dates with the remaining speakers for the lecture series.

Margaret will introduce Charles O'Connor this Saturday, but she will be gone several Saturdays and will need someone else to do the introductions.

Financial Oversight:

Tom suggested that we take this committee off the agenda for the foreseeable future.

County Liaison:

Tom reported that the county has taken bids to dredge Wiggins Pass. The highest bidder was awarded the contract. The low bidder is contesting the decision. The matter is going before the commissioners on January 13. Any delay in the dredging project may be a problem with the turtle nesting season beginning in May. Wiggins Pass is only 2' in places in the channel. A depth of 8' is needed for a vessel with a 3.5' draft.

Jan asked about the status of burying the phone line. Margaret reported that Murdo is opposed to burying the line where it turns along the boardwalk and goes out to the beach chickee hut. He felt that too much vegetation would be impacted. The telephone company wants an affidavit from an attorney verifying that the phone company won't be held liable if someone trips and gets hurt.

Garden Chair: Bobbe Hickman

60 bags of mulch provided by the county were spread in the butterfly garden. Marti's brother-in-law has been helping in the garden.

A brick pathway at the north end of the pond is being installed by Bob Hickman & Virgil Brockman. Cinde Kavan has been hauling sand in the Gator for the brick projects.

The armadillo continues to dig up plants in the butterfly garden and Bobbe continues to replant them.

The pond still has algae in it and she continues to put the chemicals in the pond to prevent the algae...she doesn't know what else to do.

Two more large pieces of driftwood were placed in the cactus garden. Bob & Virgil have been digging under the pieces to adjust them for aesthetic purposes.

Treasurer's Report: Bobbe Hickman

Bobbe reported that we have received \$2,760 in membership + \$1,880 in extra donations. We also have received \$2,700 for the second phase of the brick fund raiser.

In consultation with an attorney it was discovered that the Friends do not have to file a tax return since our revenue is under \$25,000. We only have to send in an e-postcard. Tom recommended that we not use the Swope, Lamberson & Charbonneau firm in the future. We had been paying \$730 to have our tax return done each year. Bobbe called another accountant who said that if we did need to file a tax return, that the \$730 figure was a fair ball park number. Marti recommended that we use Cohen & Grigsby as our attorneys in the future.

Website: Marti Timple

Marti reminded us that if we reply to a BOD e-mail, a response to that e-mail goes out to all the board members.

Friday, January 16 is the docent/volunteer picnic. Margaret asked Marti to come and explain how to access our website and sign people up on our e-news site. Betty or Margaret will bring a laptop to demonstrate.

Trail: Barb Schimbke

The trail is in good shape. Barb & Paul will replace some of the white id tags that have broken off the plants.

Publicity: Jane Duran

(see attached report)

Tom offered to meet with Jane after the meeting to suggest people that Jane should talk to about getting FOBB news in the local papers.

Jane found out that the Bonita Springs Chamber of Commerce will not allow brochures in their display unless an organization pays \$225/year to belong to the Chamber (\$200 in subsequent years)...even non-profit organizations.

Marti told us that the Naples Daily News has an on-line calendar and that we should submit activities to them for posting.

Margaret registered us on-line in the Florida Outdoors publication.

Social: Sue Turner

Sue reminded everyone to bring an appetizer to Jane's for the holiday party at 5:00 pm this Saturday. @ 24 people are attending.

Marti will get the mailing labels to Sue for the annual luncheon at the Imperial Golf Club on March 6 at 11:30 a.m.

Sue inquired about tote bags as a gift for the annual luncheon. Margaret said that they were \$3 for an order of 250. @65 people have signed up for the luncheon. The county is going to have a gift for everyone as well.

By-laws and Articles of Incorporation: Margaret Winn

Margaret asked for a show of hands as to who had read the By-laws. Most of the BOD had read them. Margaret asked if we were prepared to vote on them. Tom recommends that we have a lawyer, maybe Henry Cohen, look them over. Margaret asked Bobbe to ask Henry Cohen about reviewing the By-laws.

Statistics: Dorothea Forier
(see attached report)

Margaret will make a copy of the report to give to Meryl. The county has not asked for statistics lately.

Margaret asked Marti to put in a short report regarding visitors and volunteer hours on our website.

Adjournment:

Dorothea moved to adjourn, Harold seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Submitted by Jan Bachrach, Recording Secretary

Next meeting, February 2, 2009 at the Club at Barefoot Beach at 9:00 a.m.