

Friends of Kissimmee Prairie Preserve Draft Meeting minutes 08/15/2017

Meeting called to order by President Christina Evans at 12:09pm on 08/15/17

Attendees:

CSO

Christina Evans - President
Tim Kozusko - board member
Dave Kandz - Secretary
Paul Gray - board member
Dave Holko - board member

CSO board members absent

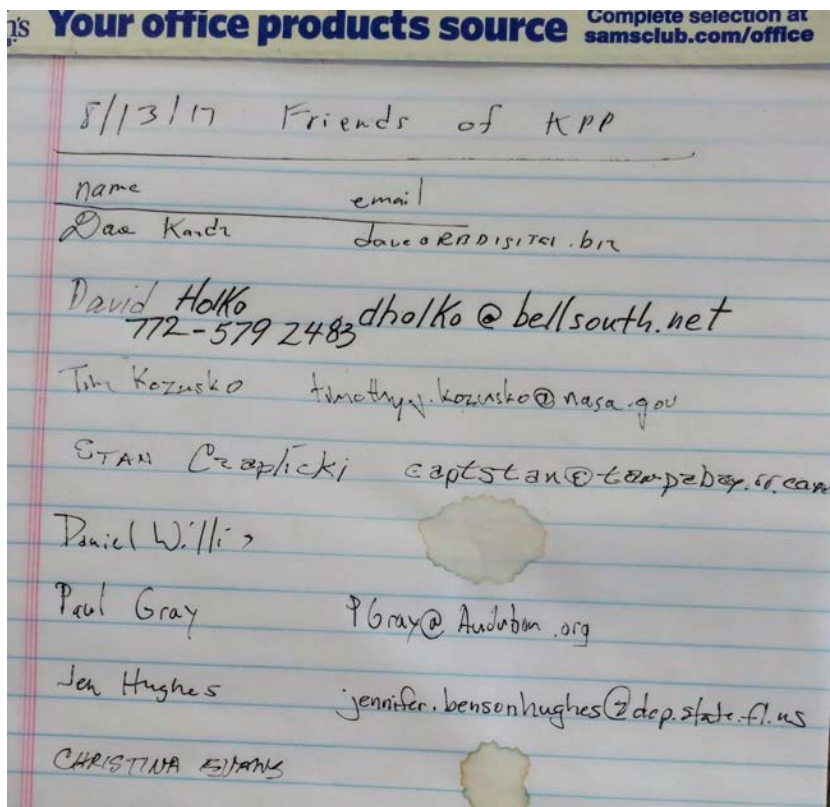
None.

Park Personnel

Daniel Willis - KPPSP Manager
Jen Hughes - Park Biologist

Guests:

Stan Czaplicki - visitor



Agenda approved as submitted.

Dr. Paul Gray moved approval of the minutes from the Feb 2017 meeting, Dave Holko seconded, minutes were approved.

Treasurer's report:

(see attached [balance sheet](#) and [P&L](#) statement).

Donna has resigned as treasurer due to her impending move out of state. Christina asked and Tim agreed to be interim treasurer.

The firewood sales were discussed. There has been a fire ban throughout Okeechobee county. Even though there are some losses it was felt its worth the effort to continue them as the staff time saved is significant.

Membership report:

A new member possibility, a former teacher who lives in Clearwater.

Daniel Willis suggested stapling a small paper to firewood bundles to encourage campers to join the Friends. He has several volunteers (kids) who can do the stapling.

Dave Holko reminded Christina to send an email to lapsed members.

Manager's report:

Unit management plan: several comments including those from the Friends were received. The majority of them were against any new development including paving Military Trail to the Kissimmee River, and building Camping Cabins. It may be possible to build 6 to 10 new Tent-only sites behind Site 25 in the equestrian campground. A preconstruction planning meeting was held for replacing the old Clivus composting toilet (destroyed in the recent Tornado event) with a bath house built from precast concrete. Other notes on the Unit management plan included:

- stating explicitly a Fire Return Interval of 1-2 years throughout the Park,
- entrance area redesign including an office/station at entrance
- water quality was not mentioned in the plan,
- Dark skies are mentioned in the new plan,
- Observation tower will be installed at the 7 mile slough.

The Astronomy pad rules were discussed, progress is being made adjusting to the new rules.

As a reminder, The mission of the Florida Park Service (FPS) is to provide resource-based recreation while preserving, interpreting, and restoring natural and cultural resources.

Jen Hughes is the new park Environmental Scientist (replacing Shayna); Jen lives on-site at the Prairie.

Katie Ferguson - (Park Services Specialist) has assumed the role of Park Interpreter.

Frank Verello has assumed the volunteer coordinator position.

Sam & James (Grasshopper Sparrow technicians) left at the end of July .

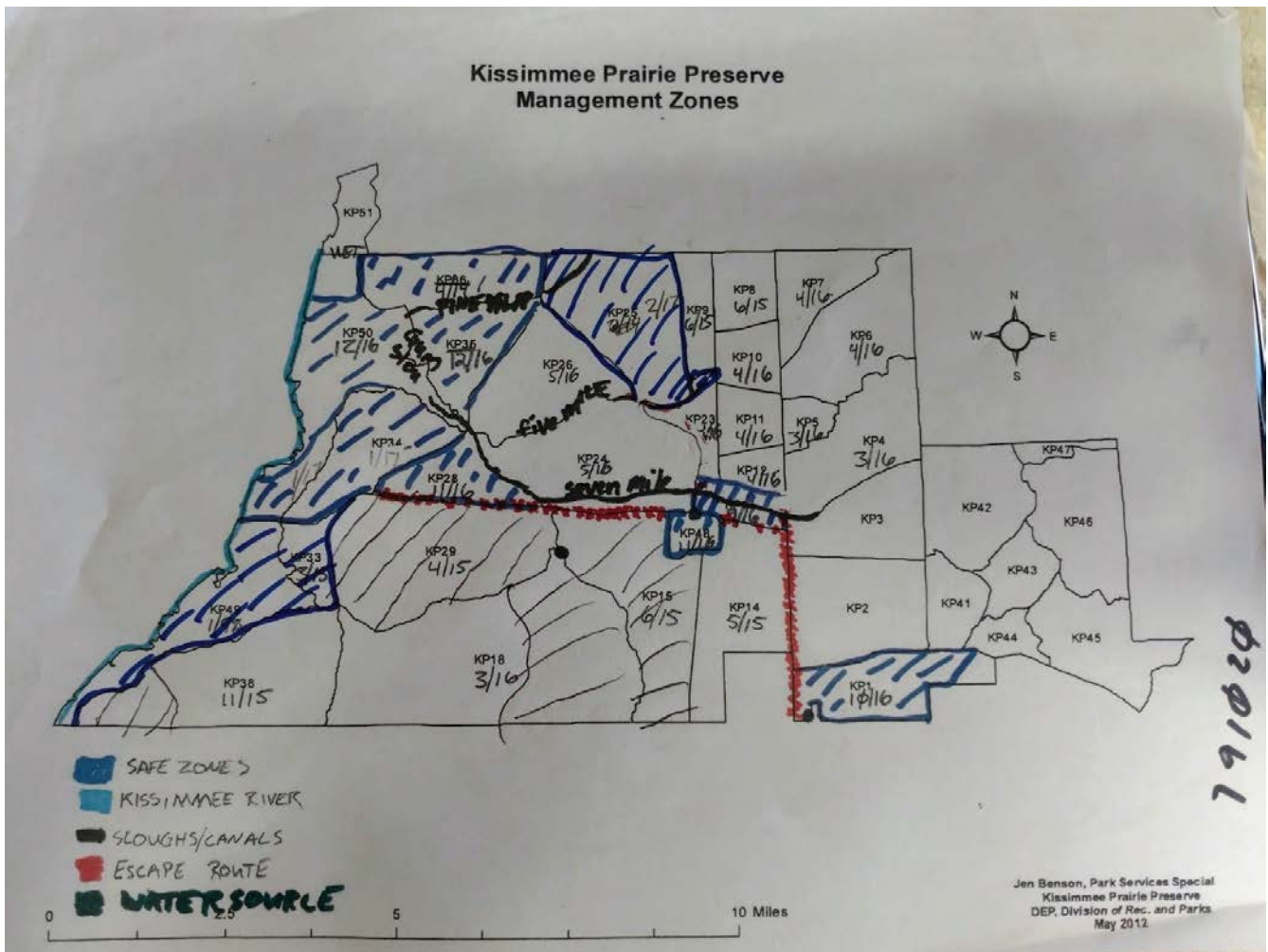
John and Elizabeth ("Z") are the resident Americorps personnel.

Larry from Highlands Hammock State Park is being hired.

The Roths are the new park hosts for the Family Campground, and Billy is the new park host in the equestrian campground.

Bruce Campbell is still serving as a volunteer interpreter.

Burn report: See included map. Zones marked with hash marks were burned within the last year. Next burn is Audubon z45, z24, z23.



Contract burning is undergoing a major funding reduction, staff reduced from 25 to 4 people.

Funding status:

- New bath house in Equestrian campground is funded.
- District funding for ADA electric gate at entrance funded for \$15,000.
- Funding of \$12K for family campground bathhouse - a shower seepage issue needs to be repaired.

Florida Trail - During June a culvert blew out approximately 30 yards and swimming is now required. Water Management district / Florida Trail Association are planning a reroute, but won't be finished by this winter.

Visitation:

Visitation up by 80% vs 2015-2016 season, partially due to astronomy pad usage not being tracked in prior seasons. Also contributing to the increase were the Prairie Days & Nights event, native plant society visitation, and other CSO activities.

Future possibilities: Special buggy tours to observe the kites (Swallowtailed and White-tailed), upcoming International Fire Festival during last week in November (11/27 - 12/1) - the same week Americorps and FTA doing trail maintenance. National Public Lands day with Americorps is a good outreach opportunity in September. Exotic control (Guava pulling) is also a possibility.

Fall Wildflower Walks: will be same format as last year's fall event. The morning walk is full with 2 waitlisted, the afternoon walk currently has 8 openings. Lots of recent burn zones to tour!

Bimini top for buggy : Daniel has a frame available, just need a canvas shop to cover it. Dave Holko volunteered to take some measurements and get prices.

Buck and Linda Cooper: doing something to honor Buck. 78 different butterfly prints donated to the preserve. Display them in a flip frame or flip book? Memorial bench? Butterfly garden? There was an existing plan (Charlie), for a butterfly garden outside the office, but dropped as no staff are available to maintain it. A memorial bench was discussed, Dave Holko to research benches.

Summary of action items: bimini tops (Dave K and Dave H), bench options (Dave H), Christina to look at displays, wildflower walk phone call in a month.

New business.

Research bunkhouse: \$280K funded by Audubon, but grant details need to be worked out. Discussion over how the Friends (CSO) would be involved.

Potential Future Board members : Sharie Turgeon with the Okeechobee tourist development council attended the Unit Management Plan and had a lot of good ideas.

Discussion of the importance of maintaining connections with the Okeechobee Battlefield reenactment group. Daughters of the American Revolution is connected to the historical significance of the battlefield. Natalie could do some recruiting, Dave Holko to recruit an additional astronomy person (Alan Cuomo), Barbara Quinn / Kelly Weiner are possible FTA trail people to replace our former board member and FTA liaison (Rick). Daniel to contact Doug McCoy - (trail angel). Kat Noel is a possible local connection.

Special Buggy tours: Possibilities and topics mentioned included Roger Hammer (Wildflowers), Paul Gray (History of the Preserve) and also more specialized plant identification tours such as native Grasses. Craig Huegel also a possibility. Dave Simpson might be available for \$200 to host a bird walk.

Increasing the fees of regular buggy rides was discussed but this requires approval of DEP. Perhaps it could be revisited after other amenities (bath house, etc) are completed.

Comments/announcements:

Prairie Days / Prairie Nights: Proposed in March 2018 but no cattle drive. People wanted to stay later to continue astronomy viewing and were forced to leave by 9pm. After hours passes are available with advanced notice; decals are provided which are attached to vehicle glass. **Tim** moved to schedule PDPN on Feb 17 2018, **Dave Holko** 2nd, schedule approved.

Should we again use Cowpokes Cafe as a food vendor? They almost broke even financially, but had very slow service. Food trucks might be better. Get vendors from Okeechobee battlefield? 80-100 people attended last year's event, earlier advertising might bring in more. Should we have a photo contest?

Next meeting is Nov 12, 12:00pm (later moved to Nov 19th) so discussion of PDPN will be resumed at that time.

Paul Gray moved to adjourn, Tim Kozusko 2nd, meeting adjourned at 14:37.

Appendix 1 : statement of financials (attached)

Appendix 2 : statement of activity reports (attached)

End of revised draft minutes.

Contract Service Expense									0.00	0.00	
Accounting & Professional Fees	210.00	220.36	210.00	222.95	210.00	222.95	210.00	222.95	1,680.00	1,550.29	8.37%
Total Contract Service Expense	\$ 210.00	\$ 220.36	\$ 210.00	\$ 222.95	\$ 210.00	\$ 222.95	\$ 210.00	\$ 222.95	\$ 1,680.00	\$ 1,550.29	8.37%
Dues & Subscriptions					100.00			100.00	100.00	112.00	-10.71%
Facility & Equipment Expenses									0.00	0.00	
Rent or Lease									206.90	0.00	
Utilities	65.00		65.00		65.00		65.00		455.00	0.00	
Total Facility & Equipment Expenses	\$ 65.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 65.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 65.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 65.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 661.90	\$ 0.00	
Merchant Processing Fees	-4.45			37.91	0.74		30.24	14.53	97.33	59.27	64.21%
Total Expenditures	\$ 270.55	\$ 220.36	\$ 275.00	\$ 260.86	\$ 375.74	\$ 222.95	\$ 305.24	\$ 337.48	\$ 2,539.23	\$ 1,721.56	47.50%
Net Operating Revenue	-\$ 708.20	-\$ 380.29	-\$ 380.93	\$ 1,114.60	-\$ 315.73	-\$ 222.94	\$ 643.77	\$ 103.53	-\$ 5,647.32	\$ 894.88	-731.07%
Other Revenue											
Other Revenue			17.46						17.46	0.00	
Total Other Revenue	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 17.46	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 17.46	\$ 0.00	
Net Other Revenue	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 17.46	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 17.46	\$ 0.00	
Net Revenue	-\$ 708.20	-\$ 380.29	-\$ 363.47	\$ 1,114.60	-\$ 315.73	-\$ 222.94	\$ 643.77	\$ 103.53	-\$ 5,629.86	\$ 894.88	-729.12%

Monday, Aug 07, 2017 08:53:22 AM GMT-7 - Cash Basis

Friends of Kissimmee Prairie Preserve

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As of July 31, 2017

	TOTAL		
	AS OF JUL 31, 2017	AS OF JUL 31, 2016 (PY)	% CHANGE
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Bank Accounts			
Checking/517069-CK1	10,657.23	15,531.43	-31.38 %
PayPal	938.02	460.40	103.74 %
Savings/517069-SA1	250.79	250.67	0.05 %
Total Bank Accounts	\$11,846.04	\$16,242.50	-27.07 %
Other Current Assets			
Undeposited Funds	0.00		
Total Other Current Assets	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Total Current Assets	\$11,846.04	\$16,242.50	-27.07 %
TOTAL ASSETS	\$11,846.04	\$16,242.50	-27.07 %
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY			
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Other Current Liabilities			
Sales Tax Liability	0.00		
Total Other Current Liabilities	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Total Current Liabilities	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Total Liabilities	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Equity			
Retained Earnings	17,475.90	15,347.62	13.87 %
Net Revenue	-5,629.86	894.88	-729.12 %
Total Equity	\$11,846.04	\$16,242.50	-27.07 %
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$11,846.04	\$16,242.50	-27.07 %