

KPPSP Friends meeting

FINAL minutes

December 12, 2015

- 1) Call to order: called to order 12:15 PM
 - a. Sign-in attached (App. 1), in attendance were 4 of 5 board members:
 - i. Christina Evans, Board
 - ii. Donna Bollenbach, Board
 - iii. Tim Kozusko, Board
 - iv. Stan Czaplicki, citizen
 - v. Paul Gray, Board
 - vi. Chris Clauson KPPSP staff
 - vii. Evan Hall, KPPSP staff
 - b. Approve minutes from October 17, 2015 meeting: Donna moved approval, Christina seconded, unanimous approval with no changes
 - c. Agenda approved: no changes called for, but later amended as noted below
 - d. Treasurer's report (App. 2):
 - i. As of November there is \$15,061.62 in our bank account, down about \$100 from October.
 - ii. The Flower walk days have been our largest money makers, followed by memberships
 - iii. The Board is happy with paper-pusher reports and process
 - iv. **We need to decide** how best to document and archive the financial records, and how to report them in the minutes.
- 2) Manager's report
 - a. Trying to bid out a new buggy by the end of January. Primary use will be for resource management. Will keep the present buggy too
 - b. The F4 Tech contract for exotic species was cancelled by State
 - c. 2 contracts have been awarded at KPPSP: one for roller chopping and one for tree removal. Another bid is out for exotic plant removal in some zones
 - d. 2 people employed at KPPSP for exotic control now, Zach and Jennifer. Katie Ferguson will return for OPS for exotics, making it 3 people total
 - e. 2 Americorps positions are open for applications—housing provided here
 - f. Staff flew the KPPSP in a helicopter (cattle lessee funded) and mapped Scleria in 7-mile slough. All staff that wanted got to fly. They found lots of gopher tortoises in Prescott Prairie revealed by burn—was a 6 year rough of 1000-1500 acres.
 - g. USDA took out ~100 hogs, will renew the contract
 - h. No word on dark sky approval yet, did pass first round of voting unanimously; Donna Umpierre is trying to get her Dark Sky group in to the Everglades Coalition and Audubon is trying to help.
 - i. KPPSP was on Discovery Channel in the documentary "Racing Extinction"

- j. KPPSP had a booth at the Okeechobee Outdoor Expo. Report that many Okeechobee citizens weren't aware of KPPSP but are generally supportive when they learn about it. KPPSP got good public outreach at the event.
- k. First day hikes event on Jan 1: **Tim** will cover this, **Paul** will contact Okeechobee Chamber of Commerce to see if it can be advertised locally.
- l. Okeechobee Battlefield Park is officially open. It has few facilities--a restroom and they will put in picnic tables. Staff will need to open and close it and maintain the grounds with no new budget to cover it. Will be under "Museum" hours, which will be open Wednesday to Sunday and closed Monday and Tuesday. Staffer Natalie Carlson will run it.
- m. Okeechobee centennial bricks: Evan gave the Board information about buying bricks for the town of Okeechobee's centennial, to be placed in the walkway to the City Hall. Donna moved we buy an 8x8 brick for \$100, Tim seconded it and it passed unanimously. **Paul** will take care of getting it, the inscription will be as below:

Friends of
Kissimmee Prairie
Preserve State Park

[space]

Where the rare

Is commonplace

- n. New FPS volunteer login system is being implemented. We'll need to log in ourselves but it is not quite functional yet
- o. Evan shared the DEP Secretary's letter about park policies for "extractive" resources such as logging, grazing and hunting.
 - i. Copies of cattle leases in Parks have been getting numerous public records requests
- p. The 10-year management plan for KPPSP still in internal review. The GIS is included now. The Friends Board asks for ongoing updates on its progress and chances for input.

3) Board membership for next year (moved from #9).

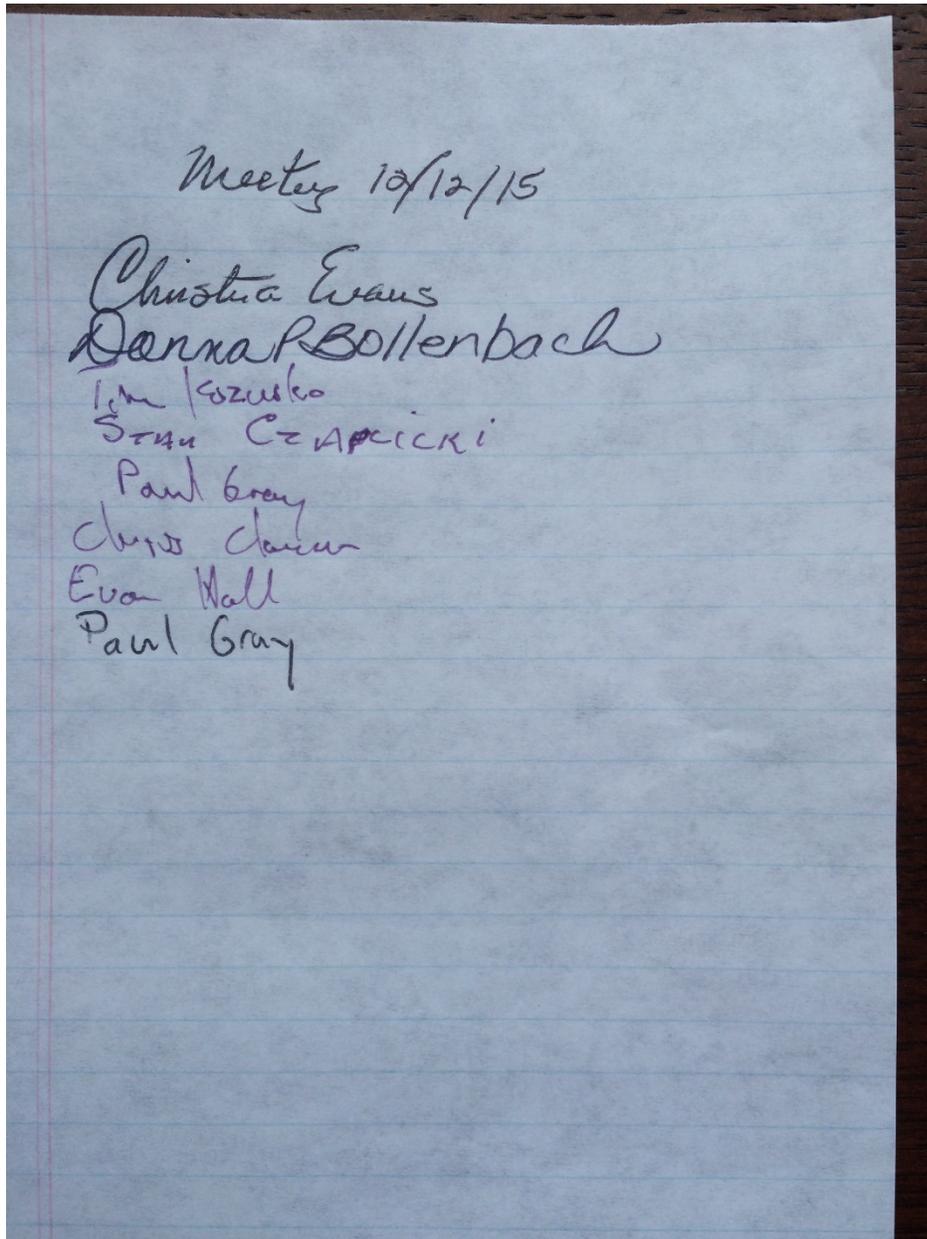
- a. Deen Mountain has resigned to pursue other issues, the Board was thankful for his help and wishes him well
- b. Dave Kantz was nominated by Christina, seconded Paul and unanimously approved after introduction and discussion. **Dave** could not attend today but has agreed to sign the Board commitment letter.
- c. New Board officers and structure was unanimously approved as:
 - i. Tim Kozusko, President,
 - ii. Christina Evans, Vice President,
 - iii. Donna Bollenbach, Treasurer,
 - iv. Paul Gray, Secretary, and

- v. Dave Kandz, At Large Director.
 - 1. Donna moved the platform and Tim seconded, unanimous approval.
 - d. Possible new Board members/interests were discussed and included adding user groups such as: astronomers (possibly Dave Holko or Derek Demeter), hikers (Betty Loomis passed the names of Tom Clements, Lori Burris, Jack Hailman, or Jim Couillard and Paul will contact them to determine their interest and possible participation), equestrian, David or Dee Simpson?
- 4) New business
- 5) CSO review, Kristin Zimmerman, Florida Park Service, recommended several dates and we selected Jan 25, 2016 as it appears most Board members can make that day. Christina went through the checklist of items to prepare and some action items are below.
- a. We need to make an annual budget, it will have to be general. We need to update the KPPSP “wish list” from the Friends as part of the budget. Tim will mail last year’s list to work from.
 - i. We may need to designate categories of projects vs programs that need help.
 - b. Christina and Donna will meet on Jan 7 with Paperpushers (Samantha) to work on our budget, prepare for the January 25th review, and transfer Treasurer duties,
 - c. We need a written policy on finances. After discussion we propose basic elements might include:
 - i. what is the minimum bank account level? cover 6 months of expenses...
 - ii. We plan to take no loans or go in to debt over next year,
 - iii. And, “within these guidelines we will allocate funds as appropriate”
 - d. We need to look into insurance, especially to cover Board member liability
 - e. Christina will check if the CSO needs to be, or should be, on same fiscal year as the FPS
 - f. Make a “Gold Copy” PDFs of minutes for past meetings (Paul will do this)
 - g. Christina noted that prior to the January 7th meeting with Samantha at Paperpushers, we would like the Park (Evan) to provide 1) the park’s annual budget request, 2) the annual approved park budget, and 3) a current list of project needs. This will be needed for the Jan. 25th review as well.
- 6) Next Plant walk
- a. April 16—will FPS assure equipment and support? Evan says truck and hay trailer assured and buggy probably (if it works). The new buggy may be in by then and the old buggy would be more likely to be available. Evan won’t commit staff for the day due to his fire priority.
 - b. Can we use the TNC DWP buggy and do the plant walks from it? Tim will ask Zach about TNC’s Disney Wilderness Preserve’s buggy. What would be the cost, logistics of transportation, the number of passengers it holds, etc. FPS has a large transport trailer at District that could be used for transport if needed. The advantage is this buggy could carry 20+ people and allow the plant tours to cover more area, plus people like buggy tours.
- 7) Membership report—tabled due to time

- 8) Reviving a quarterly newsletter—we are not ready yet, will do blogs and other communications periodically
- 9) Confirming board membership (moved to item 3)
- 10) Lifetime memberships—tabled for now, We need to make up some criteria to make it an “official” function of the Board
- 11) Meeting dates for 2016: All meetings will be at noon unless otherwise noted. Jan 25; April 23 (April 16 is prairie flower day); Aug 15; Nov 12
- 12) Unfinished business and correspondence
 - a. Booths
 - i. We will try to have a booth at Okeechobee Battlefield re-enactment Feb 27-28
 - ii. Music and arts festival in Okeechobee is in March, undecided
 - iii. Speckled Perch Festival Mar 12-13, undecided
 - iv. Booth materials: Christina found a printer who will give us some free printing for checklists of birds, plants and butterflies. How many needed? undecided
 - b. We need records of Friends promotional efforts in all our work
 - c. Paul needs to proof bird list, need to cite Paul M on the bird list,
- 13) Audience comments: none
- 14) Adjournment Christina moved, Donna seconded, unanimous agreement

Submitted by Paul Gray, Secretary

Appendix 1. Sign-in sheet for Friends of Kissimmee Prairie Board meeting December 12, 2015.



Meeting 12/12/15

Christina Evans
Danna Bollenbach
Igor Kozulko
Stan Czaplinski
Paul Gray
Chris Clavin
Evan Hall
Paul Gray

Appendix 2. Paperpushers summary of 2015 through November 30, 2015. (from Christina Evans 12/10/15 email to Board members).

Friends of Kissimmee Prairie Preserve Inc.
Statement of Cash Flows
 January - November, 2015

		Total
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Net Income		2,833.33
Adjustments to reconcile Net Income to Net Cash provided by operations:		0.00
Net cash provided by operating activities	\$	2,833.33
Net cash increase for period	\$	2,833.33
Cash at beginning of period		12,228.29
Cash at end of period	\$	15,061.62

Thursday, Dec 10, 2015 12:08:39 PM PST GMT-5