

FRIENDS OF LOVERS KEY, INC.
Board of Directors Meeting Agenda-Minutes
November 15, 2022 - Board Meeting - 2:00 P.M.
VIA ZOOM

Welcome and Administrative Business

i. Call to Order / Roll call

Attendance:

Jim Remis – President Chair
Karen Woodson- VP Operations, Chair Nominations Committee
Megan Allers – Vice President Donor Development & Events Committee
Kathryn Klar – Treasurer, Chair Governance Committee
Christy Hennessey-Secretary
Katie Moses – Park Manager and State Relations
Mark Generales- Building Committee
Tim Horvatich-Building Committee
Louise Kowitch- Chair Education Committee, Historian
Sandra Foreman-Events Chair
Frank Cassise-Purchasing/Print/Supplies
Tina Tyler-Donor Development Advisor

Absent: Izzy Prieto- Assistant Park Manager
Jason Dolle-Chair Development Subcommittee

ii. Approval of July 12, 2022, Board Minutes

Moved Via email: Christy
Seconded Via email: Karen
Discussion: None
Motion approved

Report of the Park Manager

iii. Park Managers Report - Katie Moses

Update on park damages: Park currently closed and no timeline for opening date. The park sustained catastrophic damage like Fort Myers Beach. The purpose of the state park is to conserve and preserve the land. The barrier mangrove islands did what they were supposed to do and the beach took the brunt of the storm surge. Every structure except for the WDC was destroyed and the beach lost 2-6 feet of sand. No sand on our roads just a layer of muck, but in good shape. The WDC sustained very little damage, no water got in and only the storage room below with a water line of 7 feet and a section of the WDC railing had damage. Those repairs will happen pretty quickly.

Back in the shop complex the storage sheds are all going to have to be demolished. The pole barn and shop had less damage and we are going to hope to gut and keep below the 50% threshold. The Ranger Station will have to be rebuilt.

Bayside park sustained less damage. Boat ramp completely detached which was a blessing and a curse because it needed a lot of work already. Currently taking bids to get that rebuilt. Currently it is being used by emergency crews, Lee County Government, other state agencies and salvage companies to pull out all the derelict vessels in Estero Bay. We are able to give back to the community that way. There are three residences in the park; one was a mobile home moved 30 feet with the water surge. Katie and Izzy's homes survived and getting mold testing. Have running water, but still no sewer, septic or electric. The electricity will take 2 weeks to 2 months process to replace. The entire park electrical system was under saltwater. The focus is on getting electricity to the shop, WDC and residences and then everything else. The worst was the shrimp in the refrigerator and finally got that smell out after a month.

WDC has portable air-conditioning units being delivered tomorrow so will have those running with the dehumidifiers. Park is on a three-week delay with clean-up, because of the south bridges being damaged from Bonita and the Estero Island south bridge closed for repairs. The only access to the park was by boat.

It will cost \$1.1 million to remove all debris from the park and tear down buildings. That will take two to six months and the mangroves have to be done by hand.

Lost all tools and equipment. No volunteers for two to three months until it is safe. There are trees that could fall at any time and are a danger. Need restrooms back in the park as well, before volunteers may enter.

We would like to open the park as soon as possible: A construction shed will be used for the ranger station when opening, the WDC and trails, paddling in the canals, but likely no beach access. Main restroom will need to be able to be used. Scheduled for a beach re-nourishment next year and already in permitting. An emergency sand placement order by Lee County would move things along faster. Waiting for another bridge inspection with concern about the Tram Bridge.

State will hire general contractor management company to handle all the repairs. The boat ramp may go to another contractor. Starting the design and permitting for replacing all buildings. South beach restroom was already in permitting so 6 months a head on that. There is an option possibly available to rebuild buildings in better locations. Refocus the central area of the park to the WDC.

Water Quality Issues: Middle of a red tide now. A 15' storm surge covered and damaged sewage systems including the park and it is in the water and our ground water. As such there will be no summer camps this summer.

We are in the second to third most visited state park and everyone from the top down, wants to open the park. There is a lot of political support to get the park reopened. Much of the rebuilding will come from FEMA but also from the State.

Rangers are doing well. Only one ranger's house was flooded during the storm. They have been working on salvaging what they can salvage. They were reassigned to work in Collier's Seminole Park and now back working in LKSP until mid-December, and then work at Collier Seminole Park again until they can be brought back here when we reopen.

Full beach nourishment will likely happen sometime after March or into summer. The design and permitting process has been going on for a year and a half. The WDC is a beacon of hope for the park. The park will come back better than ever.

Kat offered that the Beach Chamber will put out a call-out to their 800 volunteers to come help with the clean-up. Suggested having every volunteer donate \$5.00. The kayak concessions hope to come back, but lost everything.

Highest priorities for the park are an ATV or Golf Cart which are going to take up to a year to get. Need tools. Small tools will not be covered by FEMA. For the basics, the park needs about \$5,000. Katie will create an Amazon Wish List to share.

Jim suggested we give Katie a blanket amount for supplies. We have a line item of \$10,000 and we have spent \$7,000 so far and money leftover for the Grand Opening.

- o Motion from Jim to give \$5,000 to Katie for immediately needed items
- o Karen seconded
- o No discussion
- o Motion approved

The Event field is currently a hurricane debris field for one to two years. Rotary has decided they will not have the Boat Show this year. It may be about 6 months before the park can be opened for limited use. Manatee sculpture may be installed around that time. The original park opening might have been in July so that could work out well for a reopening of the park. Katie may know more about the timeline by December. We might possibly have events in the WDC in six months or so, but no summer camp or beach use until the tram is up and running.

The 2023 Gala is cancelled and the next Gala will be March 23 of 2024

Reports of Board Officers

iv. President's Report – Jim Remis

Administrative Items Requiring Attention:

- Jim proposed there will be no election for new Folks board members. All board members will remain in place. This requires that Jim, Frank, and Tina be reappointed for a one-year term. Each of the three has agreed.
 - Motion made by Kathryn
 - Mark seconded
 - No discussion
 - Motion approved

- The current officers will be reappointed by the board –
 - Motion to approve as a slate of officers: Mark
 - Seconded: Megan
 - No discussion
 - Motion approved

Each of the board members need to have specific responsibilities assigned to them.

Not meet in December but can always call a meeting if need be. More important we keep the monthly newsletter.

No annual meeting in January however an annual report will be created.

- Jim made a motion: to defer annual meeting to a more appropriate time
- Seconded: Karen
- Discussion: None
- Motion approved

Nook Inventory and our stuff in the shed: Everything stored in the shed was destroyed. Lost \$5,000 in inventory. Always have to do an end of December inventory in the nook. Disconnecting everything not currently in use for the WDC such as Century Link and others. Jason set up Linga, so Kathryn will contact him after the meeting about discontinuing Linga once we utilize it for inventory.

Need to continue the Newsletter: Christy will type up a park report from today's meeting for Katie to edit and submit to Karen Morreale for the newsletter.

Kathryn was told by Alex King to keep the 2023 Gala donation of \$25,000. Jim suggested we use the money for Katie for the park. Tina offered to

contact donors to ask for donations and include an Amazon Wish List. Even ask for the ATV or Golf Cart. Katie said the items would get shipped to another state park.

We need to start work on the 2023 budget. Budget: put \$25,000 for Katie's use for the park

Operational Items Requiring Attention

- Availability of the WDC and other park facilities going forward and the impact on Folks programming. We will at least be able to use the WDC and parking lot in a few months.
- Planning for other events: It would be great if we could still do Beach and Brews elsewhere. Megan is going to pursue that.
- We need an effective PR – marketing – Development plan to keep our members, the State Park Service, and the community informed and motivated to rebuild the park.
- We need to develop a list of Park needs that Folks can assist in funding internally or externally. We need to assist in protecting the exhibits and other resources of the WDC
- Status of Manatee Sculpture: Chuck's last \$50,000 is due this summer for the final payment on delivery and installation of the sculpture.
- Volunteers – how and when: No timeline yet.
- Need to replace the exterior fans of the WDC which will be our expense, but the park will pay for the WDC damaged railing. Artists will be offered to take their art back for their own stock until we are back open.
- Reestablishing the internet to the WDC will be complicated and the State will take care of that. Katie has asked the state for Internet and phone lines to the WDC. FEMA only covers replacing items that already existed. Currently using cell phone hot spots.

v. Treasurer's Report – Kathryn Klar

Cash heavy at \$250,000 and not much going out. Cancelled recurring expenses except for Verizon. Contacting our donors. We need Jason to close BB&T because \$90,000+ is still going in there, and move it over to Fifth Third. We do need to fund the '22 Gala's Nashville Noel package and they are traveling on 12-9-22. We also need to buy the \$200 gift card online.

Discussion about the future:

- Ask Colleen to draft a letter to membership asking them to consider renewing their membership as a donation to the park, while the park is temporarily closed. Tina will do the write up for her. The "ask for a donation" will be in the newsletter.
- Over the next couple of years we need to raise \$100,000 for Katie to use for the park. We need to conceptually think "big". Ask donors for large items

like vehicles. Katie said they have lost all interpretive items like skulls, and so forth, so that is a good request for donors interested in education. Butterfly garden was destroyed. We need to also ask for items each park ranger needs. We need to rebuild Lovers Key.

Jim and Tina are getting a tour of the park tomorrow with Katie. Jim will take photos but we all need to be careful not to share too much with the public.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00pm

Next Board Meeting
January 10, 2023 – 2:00