

FRIENDS OF ST. SEBASTIAN RIVER
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2022 at 4PM on GOOGLE MEET

CALL TO ORDER/ATTENDANCE--Pres. Glover called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

In attendance were Herrmann(vice-pres.), Greene(treasurer), Peterson(secretary), and directors Bolton, Bondy, Sabol, Stephen, and Zingman. We were also joined by Advisory Director Graham Cox.

CALL FOR ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA—Canal spraying update from Stephen, update from Bolton on contact with lawyer re manatee suit, to be covered with similar items under Unfinished Business.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING(AP, p. 2)-- Herrmann made a motion, seconded by Bolton, that the Minutes from the December 14, 2021 meeting be approved, as taken by Secretary Pro Tem Herrmann; all voted in favor.

TREASURER'S REPORT(AP, pp. 3-9)-- Bolton made a motion, seconded by Peterson, that the report be accepted for audit; all voted in favor.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT--

- 1) Ryall House office—no contact with Beth Powell.
- 2) (AP, p. 10)--Notice from Westfield Insurance, our carrier, with new exclusion for any illness due to COVID.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 1) Manatee lawsuit--Bolton made contact with Robert Kennedy, Jr.'s law office on Jan. 10th to inquire about guidance on proceeding with a ballot amendment for a rights-of-nature ordinance, and legal assistance for a possible suit against the City of Sebastian regarding their use/application of pesticides. Glover also gave an update on comments from Atty. George Glenn, previously forwarded to Board by email, re possible action by the Indian River Neighborhood Association regarding intent to sue the EPA, by Earthjustice, on behalf of the three organizations – Center for Biological Diversity, Defenders of Wildlife and Save the Manatee Club. The IRNA appears to plan to send letter of support to the three organizations, if and when the suit is filed. We may consider similar action. Graham has yet to make contact with Glenn for clarification of FL statutes, regarding permit requirements by municipalities for use of herbicides. Stephen reported he received latest report from City of Sebastian on their purchase and use of herbicides. He also reports it has been observed that City employees have been on the canals with a boat perhaps for use of herbicides, which they have recently purchased locally – Nautique brand. Bondy asked about the process of herbicide application by “district.” Graham confirmed there is no specification for districts in the stormwater IPM. Glover showed the Natural Resources Board website notification for herbicide application indicates “districts” where application will occur, with dates.
- 2) Letter to Indian Riverkeeper – no action

NEW BUSINESS

- 1) Postponement of Jan. 25th meeting to our regular March meeting date. Library is open, but new function for online broadcast of meeting may be available by then. Agreed to postpone.
- 2) Possible social event at Donald MacDonald Park? April date, location?
- 3) Election of Directors – Herrman moved slate of Bondy, Bolton and Peterson for re-election as Directors, seconded by Greene, approved unanimously. Sabol stepped down as Director.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Advocacy--Herrmann

-SJRWMD permits and ACOE permits – no report

Education/Outreach-Bolton/Stephen

Planting a Refuge for Wildlife booklet—one copy acquired, action tabled until we are able to review.

Color Your Way Through Wild Florida coloring book - \$17 retail price. Decision not to acquire, but use our one sample copy to show and see if there's interest by public.

Fish keychains to be acquired.

Plaque of appreciation for Tom Bauer approved.

Mountain Dew Outdoor Grant – no notification/we did not receive.

Financial--Greene--full-year report included and annual FL sales tax paid. Bolton reported Peter Hinck plans to make a donation to purchase microscopes to be used for our participation with NOAA project to check for and report cyanobacteria.

Governance—Herrmann proposed naming Bauer, Graham Cox and Sabol as Advisory Directors. Moved by Herrmann, seconded by Bolton. Question by Stephen as to Advisory member ability to vote. Glover clarified they have no vote or responsibility for attendance of Board meetings. Approved unanimously.

Information-Glover, website update/trail tours – no update.

Membership--Herrmann-special mailing to members to include flyer we're printing, and Bondy and Stephen have been delivering door-to-door.

Publicity—Penny Phillips – Facebook stats for year 2021

Volunteer--vacant

Notice – Boat ride offered by Greene for Board on Jan 26th, 9am to noon. Graham notified us that the Press Journal has been running a series of articles on Lake Okeechobee and dysfunctionality of BMAP process.

Adjournment--adjourned at 5:09 PM.

*Next BOD meeting Feb. 8, 2022 at 4PM on GOOGLE MEET.

Respectfully submitted,

Buzz Herrmann, Secretary Pro Tem