

Friends of the Thousand Islands Sanctuary, Inc.

ANNUAL MEETING

May 9, 2012

6:00 pm

Cocoa Beach Library

- **Welcome & Introductions – Jim Durocher**

- **Administrative Business**
 - Minutes Review/Approval; President’s report; Treasurer’s report; Old/New Business**

- **EELs Update: Scott Taylor, Brevard County EELs**

- **Cocoa Beach Land Management Committee Update: Bob Day**

- **Preserve Brevard: Jim Durocher**

- **Jacques Dubois Memorial: Jim Durocher**

- **Discussion: 1000 Islands Projects & Volunteer Opportunities**

Friends of the Thousand Islands Sanctuary, Inc.

Annual Meeting Summary

Meeting Date: May 9, 2012

Meeting Location: Cocoa Beach Public Library

Directors Present: James Durocher, Tony Sasso, Robert Day

Guests Present: See Attached Sign-in Sheets

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm by Jim Durocher.

Welcome & Introductions: Durocher welcomed those attending, introduced the officers of the Friends of the 1000 Islands and asked that those in attendance to introduce themselves.

Administrative Business:

Minutes: On a motion by Durocher /2nd by Day the minutes of the previous annual meeting were approved. It was noted that copies of the minutes or meeting summaries are available for review

Presidents Report: Durocher reported that the organization had been largely dormant since the illness and death of Jacques Dubois. Dubois had been Secretary/Treasurer and handled several additional functions for the organization. Following his death, the organizational records were unavailable until the estate was recently settled. The intent is to reactivate the Friends of the 1000 Islands and undertake a series of projects and events with volunteer opportunities involving the 1000 Islands.

Durocher noted that a recent volunteer opportunity involved a workday on North Crawford Island. Volunteers spent the morning clearing brush for a new canoe/kayak access point near the southeast tip of the island. A small boat dock will also be constructed at this location.

As part of the workday, a trampoline that had appeared on the island was removed. Durocher reported that EELs staff had taken the remnants of the trampoline to a recycler and received \$8 for the metal. The money was provided to the Secretary/Treasurer for deposit in the bank account.

Secretary/Treasurers Report: Day reported that the Friends had a new mailing address (PO Box 320356, Cocoa Beach 32932-035600). The revised mailing address and list of officers had been provided as part of the annual filed with the Florida Department of State/Division of Corporations and had also been provided to the IRS and the bank.

Day also reported that the bank required a minimum \$1000 account balance to avoid fees. At the present time the Friend's bank balance was \$1208. Day noted that Dubois had provided \$200 to start the bank account and had provided an additional \$200 to ensure that the account balance met the \$1000 minimum. It was also noted that Durocher, Sasso and Day had paid for several items for which they had not been reimbursed.

Day further reported that at this point there are three paid members of the organization. This was no doubt due to the long dormant period. He noted that membership would be discussed later in the meeting.

On a motion by Durocher/2nd by Sasso the Secretary/Treasurers report was accepted.

Old Business: There was no old business.

New Business:

EELs Report/Scott Taylor: Taylor recounted the story of the trampoline. The trampoline had first been seen on South Crawford Island. Taylor left a note asking it be removed. The trampoline was removed but subsequently appeared on North Crawford Island. Another note was left but nothing was done until the trampoline was removed as part of the recent workday.

Taylor provided a brief overview of the EELs program and the acquisition of the 1000 Islands and explained that the primary management focus in the 1000 Islands was the removal/control of exotic vegetation. Projects have been undertaken on North Crawford, West Crawford and 4th Street to remove exotics and, in addition to plantings, native plants are returning to these sites. Maintenance is being done to address exotic plants as they appear.

South Crawford is anticipated to be the next location where exotics will be removed. Funds may be available in the EELs FY 2013 budget to undertake this project. Funding may also come from mitigation required for development projects.

Projects underway in the 1000 Islands include the canoe/kayak access and boat dock on North Crawford and a canoe/kayak trail through the islands. The canoe/kayak access will include an erosion fabric covered ramp similar to the ramp at Ramp Road Park and a small dock providing access to boaters. Design and permitting is underway on this project. A conceptual route for the canoe/kayak trail has been developed and EELs staff are in consultation with state agencies on the design of markers for the trail.

A question concerning funding for the EELs program was referred to Mike Knight, EELs Director. Knight indicated that EELs funding was secure for the present however EELs was operating under a minimal budget and was understaffed. Another question was asked about another referendum providing EELs funding. Knight noted that any referendum would have to be initiated by the public.

EELs Program/Fox Lake Sanctuary: Mike Knight, EELs Director, provided a presentation on the proposed scrub restoration project at Fox Lake Sanctuary. This project has recently been the subject of much

discussion as it will involve the removal of extensive areas of mature pine trees as part of the restoration. Knight provided photos and graphics showing that the area in question had been scrub for many years and maintained as scrub by regular fires. Following fire suppression in relatively recent years, the area has become overgrown with pine and may present a wildfire hazard to nearby development. Further discussion of this project will be heard at the Brevard County Commission meeting on May 29.

Cocoa Beach Land Management Committee Update: Day provided a presentation including an overview of the history of the committee and the properties they review. This City committee works with and advises EELs on management activities on the southern 1000 Islands and advises the City Commission on recommended management and restoration activities in the north 1000 Islands and Maritime Hammock Preserve. The Land Management Committee is currently working on an update to the 1994 management plan for the north 1000 Islands for submission to the state and undertaking projects to remove exotics and construct amenities at the Maritime Hammock Preserve.

Preserve Brevard: Durocher provided a brief history of the development of the Friends of the 1000 Islands and its relationship with the Friends of Ulumay. Much of the Friends of the 1000 Islands bylaws and structure was copied from the Ulumay group. Preserve Brevard is the working name for an organization under development to serve as an umbrella organization for friends group including the Friends of Ulumay, the Friends of the 1000 Islands and Friends of Sams House. The groups would function like chapters of this organization, share information, and likely have a common 501(c)(3). The individual chapters would have autonomy over their operations and finances. Vince Lamb of the Friends of Ulumay noted that bylaws are currently being drafted and a meeting will be scheduled in the near future to discuss the umbrella organization further. The Friends of the 1000 Islands Directors has voted to participate in these discussions.

Lamb also noted that Friends of Ulumay is also operating the Brevard Naturalist program, which holds day-long seminars at various locations. (A recent seminar was held at Sams House). He will be working with the Friends of the 1000 Islands to plan another seminar in the fall on the 1000 Islands.

Jacques Dubois Memorial: Durocher reported that the Executive Board had voted to pay for a memorial to Jacques Dubois recognizing his dedication to the 1000 Islands and his service to the Friends. This memorial will be a stone with a plaque and tree, possibly placed at Ramp Road or on one of the islands. It was noted that EELs plans to name the trail on North Crawford the Jacques Dubois Memorial Trail. It was suggested that the stone could be associated with the trail. There will be further discussion about location and text for the plaque by the Directors.

Membership: It was noted that presently there are three paid members of the Friends of the 1000 Islands and virtually everybody needs to join or renew. There was discussion whether dues should be once annually or renewable based on the month the member joined. A motion by Durocher/2nd by Day to assess dues annually passed unanimously. There was further discussion concerning new members who join late in the calendar year and what, if any, discount or benefit these members should receive

and when any discount should take effect. The Executive Directors will consider several recommendations made from the floor and develop a proposal for consideration.

Future Events: A work day has been scheduled for Friday, May 11. Meet at Ramp Road at 9 am. A fall event was suggested that would involve a picnic or party at Ramp Road, possibly in October or November.

Adjournment: Following completion of business and discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Friends of the Thousand Islands

Sign-in Sheet

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