

Friends of Goodwin Forest

Meeting Minutes of January 12, 2024 in person and on Google Meeting

Present: in person: President Jim Giana, Treasurer Bruce Spaman, Recording Secretary Linda Wenner, Adam Drouin, Beth Merow, Lynne Warren, Gabe Zorabedian, Bill Marshall, Glen Newcombe, Stan Crawford, Lynn Kochiss, Steve Broderick, Dale May, Kate May and on Google Meet Beth Bernard and Lori Brant.

The meeting was called to order by Jim at 5:04 PM. Motion to accept the minutes of November 14, 2023 by Stan, second by Lynne W. and were accepted as presented on the webpage.

Elections: Jim read the proposed slate of President Lynne Warren,, Vice President Lynn Kochiss, Treasurer Bruce Spaman, Secretary Linda Wenner. Motion to elect the slate as presented, second by Bruce, all were in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Bruce Spaman presented the 2023 year-end report and the draft budget for 2024. He has met with the new folks at CFPA about getting our accounts up to speed and they will research our checking account to see why their balance does not match ours. The report shows a deficit of \$4,867. There was a question as to why we budgeted \$800 for school bus transport and the budget showed \$7323 expended. Beth said the Friends were only to pay the first \$800 and CFPA had a grant to pay the rest. Also, the Naturalist pay for the quarter came out of the Master Naturalist account which is a different line item. Beth will look into that with CFPA, who will have to make those corrections. Lynn K offered to be the membership person to interact with CFPA as she lives nearby them and can research membership. Lynne W noted that the webpage reminds people to designate what their donation is for but most people leave it blank. The CFPA spreadsheet has only a donor number and there is a different sheet to look up the name of the donor. Stan made a motion to accept the treasurer's report and draft budget pending proposed corrections by CFPA, seconded by Steve, accepted.

PSA Education Update: Lori thanked the Friends for funding Adam's Naturalist position. DEEP staff from No Child Left Indoors (NCLI) Angel Rios will be available to help Adam with programs. Lynne W asked if we needed to cancel programs until staff is hired. Lori said she will also line up help for spring programs. She asked that Lynne W send her a list of dates and times that would need to be covered, as only DEEP staff can open the buildings for use (state policy). Lori corrected a previous misconception about the PSA agreement. It was CFPA's board that did not sign the agreement because they wanted the new director, Andy Bicking, on board with it. DEEP still wants to collaborate with CFPA and will meet with Andy. Lori has the Goodwin position on her list and wants to continue Mr. Goodwin's legacy of education. However, the position is not likely to be filled very soon. Beth expressed frustration with the state requiring DEEP staff to open the buildings for programs such as Adam's many programs and Beth M's Master Naturalist program. Bill had a question about coverage for the Trail Run and preparations for same. Lori reiterated that she needs a list of every meeting and every program date and time and she will try to cover it with DEEP staffing. Stan had a question about the status of the Goodwin Endowment and what the money is being used for. Lori said the endowment was small and generated enough for staffing, about \$37,000, which is used for staff and a small amount for materials. Steve pointed out that Beth had been hired full time for CFPA and part-time for Goodwin and that we should use this opportunity to hire two people for those jobs. Lori agreed but said the decision is up to CFPA. Steve reinforced that both DEEP and the Friends should both strongly give CFPA that opinion. Beth agreed that is her recommendation as well. Lori said it is still her goal to have a full-time education person at Goodwin. Lynne W said our senator Jeff Gordon, is having 3 town hall meetings coming up and we can attend and relay the importance of

this need to him as well. Steve said he thought it would be more effective if we would set up a meeting with Senator Gordon and Representative Boyd and have a Friends delegation meet with them. Beth apologized for not being able to attend in person due to her illness. She said Andy's calendar is filling up fast so we should get on it soon. Beth thanked all the volunteers present for their hard work, especially Lynne Warren for organizing a strong gardener group and battling the jumping worms. She thanked everyone for sticking with Goodwin through all the changes. Lori said the Director of Parks, Tim Tyler, is retiring in April. Lynne W said she will send an email to set up a meeting with Andy.

Stan made a motion to table the rest of the agenda, seconded by Bill. Volunteer recognition commenced.

Next meeting date and place to be determined.

Respectfully submitted by Linda Wenner.