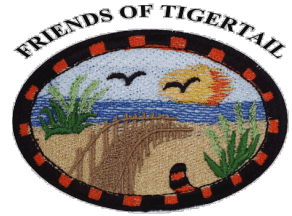


Tigertales



Vol 6 Issue 1 January 2024

Friends of Tigertail Beach, Inc. Marco Island, Florida

FOT President's Report

Our Board of Directors has been active in coordinating and working with Collier County officials to improve the facilities and make Tigertail Beach Park more user friendly and attractive for visitors to the park. Key Board members met with Parks Director Olema Edwards and two of her staff on Thursday, January 18 to present our concerns and offer assistance in working together to improve the park.

Page 2 is a summary of our concerns and discussion at the meeting. The good news is that Ms. Edwards has been very proactive since the meeting and they have re-installed the fishing line receptacle and installed roped fencing to replace the ugly orange cone that was at the front entrance of the park. See pictures below:



Jan 19, 2024 at 11:45:05 AM

Your Board of Directors and dedicated volunteers will continue to work with County officials to restore Tigertail Beach Park to its former glory.

Thank You Donors

We'd like to recognize the following generous donors:

- Maria Bachich for substantial donations over \$1,100 over the years.
- Joan Smith \$100 from the Smiths, Denkmanns, and Avagians in memory of Jack Quinn who loved Marco Island in winter.
- Joan Smith \$50 in memory of Vartkes "Vic" Karaian.
- Donation from the Koels in memory of Chuck Heckman.
- Marco Island Candle Company from Marianne Iordanou and Andrea Bortolussi \$518 in support of FOT Camperships program.

URGENT CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Friends of Tigertail board of directors are doing



Jan 19, 2024 at 10:55:22 AM

Board of Directors and Officers

President - Vacant
Vice President - Lynn Livingston
Secretary - Gwynette Goodman
Treasurer - Bill Rogers
Linda Colombo
Allie Delventhal
Susan Kubat
Russ Colombo
Susan LaGrotta
Harriette Tax

much of the work to sustain our organization. As we age, we are in need of volunteers to step up and handle some of the duties. We will identify opportunities at each of our events, both public and members only. Unless we get some volunteers to step up soon, the actions and events of our group may be severely curtailed in the future.

Breakfast & Birds on Jan 13th was canceled due to storms that came through Marco Island.

January 26th 2024
4-6pm
Members Welcome Back Picnic and Party



The Board of Directors are sponsoring a "Welcome Back" picnic with hotdogs, snacks, salads and adult

beverages on Friday, January 26th. The picnic will be hosted by Harriette Tax at her beautiful home on the water at Barfield Bay. The address is 935 Caxambas Dr. We hope to see as many members as possible and also welcome all guests who have an interest in joining Friends of Tigertail! **Please bring lawn chairs and prepare for a good time!**

Meeting with County Parks Director and staff - Summary

- Fishing line receptacle - laying on its side near dune area/viewing tower - reinstalled the next day.
- Osprey nest platform- needs new platform on top of existing structure. CC will check into it. FOT has paper work for making new one. Will share with CC.
- Restroom/ ranger station - There will be a completely new structure developed and constructed. It is in the pipeline to be replaced. CC waiting on their facilities department with updates. Until it is finished porto-potties are available with a wash stand.
- No water in outside washstand- A call was quickly made to rectify this.
- Concession/ vendors - CC is looking into food trucks to be in the parking lot but cannot go forward with this until the

construction for restroom facility is either underway or complete. Seeking new vendors for the inop vending machines. CC is seeking interested parties for the concession building.

- Water puddling near walkway to café should be addressed.
- Landscaping of the park - In our opinion, the park, though clean, is not attractive to visitors. FOT suggested plantings of native Coonties in parking lot medians. They would need to be at least 2 years old. Mentioned two dead trees in back field medians.
- Viewing tower- The two telescopes are not functioning and the one on second level was removed. CC is seeking bids for new ones.
- Security - FOT was concerned with the security of the restrooms after the park closes. CC stated that they are physically unlocked in the morning and locked when the park closes.
- AED (automated external defibrillator) - There is one at ranger station. CC said they would consider putting one at the back parking restroom area.
- Butterfly Garden - FOT would like to make it into a maintenance free pollinator garden. CC will help FOT members with initial clean up and repositioning of rocks, removing trellis, removing unwanted trees and leveling the area. FOT will replant

with plants that attract pollinators. The garden should basically be maintenance free. CC will make a new sign that states it is a pollinator garden presented by CC and FOT.

- Signage - FOT mentioned that many signs are dull or faded and should be replaced.
- Audubon bird sign is broken- CC will follow up with Audubon.
- Tram - FOT suggested that CC allow a small business to operate a gulf cart type vehicle to transport visitors from lagoon area to gulf area. CC says it will propose this in very near future.
- Ranger- FOT has always asked for a full-time ranger. We discussed the value of this. CC says that right now they do have some ranger programs being presented at several park areas. CC will research if they could also be at Tigertail. FOT said we would gladly advertise it on our website.
- Parking fee machine was covered in back field. - CC stated that because they break down, they are looking into a 21st century type of payment plan that can be made by smart phone, telephone call or via CC web site. The rangers would receive immediate updates of users that includes vehicle license and could identify violators fairly easily.