

**Florida Oceanographic Society
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
July 9, 2019**

Board Present: Allen Herskowitz, Board Chair, Mark Cocorullo, Audrey Gillis, Gary Goforth, Paul Hederman, Dan Merritt, Nancy Rand and Scott Turnbull.

Board Present via Telephone: John Amerling, Linda Houston and Pat Noonan

Staff Attendance: Mark Perry, Cathy Muir

Not Present: Matt Hooks. Matt King and Bob Mathias

Board Chair

Board Chair, Allen Herskowitz, called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m. He welcomed Audrey Gillis as a new Board Member.

Mission Moment: Governor DeSantis Visit and SFWMD Update – Mark Perry

Governor DeSantis made his second visit to FOS on June 25, 2019 to sign Bill HB 5401. This Bill transfers powers and duties of FWCC relating to environmental crimes to Division of Law Enforcement within the Department of Environmental Protection. Mark Perry has been invited to be on a panel for the SFWMD Governing Board Workshop for N. Estuaries Water Quality on July 10, 2019. Gary Goforth will also be attending the workshop.

On July 11, 2019 Mark Perry and Gary Goforth will attend the SFWMD meeting. FOS is on the agenda to request a change in the conservation easement from SFWMD.

Consent Items

- A. Minutes from the Board Meeting – May 22, 2019
- B. Executive Director Reports-Education, Research, Animal Care, Operations and Development
- C. Committee & Task Group Reports
(See Board Website for Minutes, Reports and details)

Board Action – The Chair requested approval of the Minutes from the May 22, 2019 meeting and the consent agenda. Paul Hederman made a motion to approve. Don Merritt seconded it. They were voted on and approved.

Major Issues Discussion

Capital Campaign Update Pat Noonan and Nancy Perry, CFRE

- Capital Campaign gifts now total 91 - \$5,426,878 committed/pledged. Endowment – 2 bequest gifts totaling \$150k, a percentage of an estate legacy gift and 2 notifications of legacy estate gifts.

- Four new committed gifts totaling **\$520,500.**
- Interest income for FY 2018 is \$18,235 and FY 2019 YTD is \$34,212 There is a pending gift of \$125k verbally confirmed to Mark Perry.
- Pledge payments of \$44,500.
- 11 positive responses no amount yet.
- Meeting with Tiger Woods PR VP in mid-August.
- Working with Geoffrey Smith on Coral Reef Sculpture for building entrance.
- Met with Kathy Fitzpatrick, Martin County Engineer who will assist us to apply for FIND funds.
- Working with 38 prospects who have received packets and another highly rated 55 prospects who have not received packets.

Financial Report, April 2019, Matt King, Chair, Reported by Mark Perry

- It was discussed that the TDC Grant is reimbursable and we need to find out if money spent can be applied against the Grant.
- The Capital account has been reclassified to Unrestricted.
- Northern Trust has discontinued the sweep accounts so we have opened up some new accounts. The Endowment account is now a money market. The 6484 account will remain open and is our primary checking account for the building fund.
- Facilities expenses are up due to some unexpected expenses, air conditioner for the gift shop and computers.
- Research Grants are supplemental never offset 100%.
- We have received \$25k from a donor for a new research building.
- The ray tank needs to be refurbished.
- Gary Goforth requested that an Advocacy Position be included in the new budget.

Capital Expansion Update – Facility Task Group – Nancy Rand Chair, Larry Zabik; Zabik & Associates

- Bids were received for the building June 28, 2019. The building came in at \$4.4M. Initial value engineering can bring it down to \$4m.
- Large purchase orders should be run through FOS to give us an approximate tax savings of \$50k.
- Builders risk insurance is included in the budget.
- With the funds we presently have we can construct the Ocean EcoCenter and construct the bridge foundation.
- On July 11, 2019 there is a meeting with SFWMD to change our conservation easement.
- The initial design of the bathrooms needs to be reviewed. There are some concerns about the number of bathrooms and whether they have to be under one roof. This will be reviewed and reported to the Board.
- We need a cash flow timeline.

- Right now the bridges are on hold because we need the right design and have to incorporate the FWC mesh.
- The contract will include a safety plan and should be ready by August 1, 2019. Gary Goforth would like to see a site specific safety plan, protecting FOS and the animals and stated that if the safety plan is not in the contract we should not sign it. The contract will be reviewed by the Facilities Committee before it is brought to the Board.
- Allen Herskowitz requested a special Board of Directors meeting to vote on the contract. This will be held on Tuesday, August 13, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. at the Coastal Center. If there any questions before the meeting, please direct them to Allen Herskowitz. If you cannot attend the meeting please phone in to the conference call.
- Gary Goforth also stated that since the mangroves are protected, we should have someone, who knows the laws, oversee the landscaping.
- Dan Merritt has met with our Technology Specialist regarding the new building and changes that need to be made.

Governance & Nominating Committee, Scott Turnbull, Chair

No report

Strategic Planning and Task Group, Paul Hederman, Chair

- Paul Hederman handed out an updated Strategic Plan Goal Tracking Sheet which will be discussed at the next meeting on August 16, 2019, at 3:00 pm at the Coastal Center. Staff compensation and benefits will also be discussed.

Development Committee Update, Linda Houston, Chair

- Linda Houston gave a brief account of events happening at FOS and directed Board members to read the entire report on the website.
- We had our millionth visitor on June 14, 2019.
- We have co-chairs for Oceans Alive 2020

Information Technology Task Group – Dan Merritt, Chair

- Dan Merritt met with Mark Baer, our technology specialist. Dan stated that since Mark Baer is a contract employee, who is paid hourly, he would like to offer his expertise. They also discussed business continuation and what needs to be done to make that happen Ransomware was discussed as well. Scott Turnbull stated that many companies are migrating away from the server to the cloud.

Advocacy Task Group- Gary Goforth, Chair

- Mark Perry and Gary Goforth will attend the SFWMD Governing Board Workshop for N. Estuaries Water Quality on July 10, 2019.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 pm. The next meeting will be held on August 13, 2019 at 3:00 pm at the Coastal Center.

Minutes recorded by Cathy Muir, Administrative Assistant and submitted by Bob Mathias,
Secretary of the Board of Directors of Florida Oceanographic Society.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Mathias". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Bob Mathias, Secretary of the Board of Directors
Florida Oceanographic Society