

**Florida Oceanographic Society
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
December 11, 2019**

Board Present: Allen Herskowitz, Board Chair, - John Amerling; - Mark Cocorullo, - Gary Goforth, - Paul Hederman, - Matt Hooks, - Matt King, - Bob Mathias, - Dan Merritt, - Patricia Noonan, - Nancy Rand

Board Present via Telephone: Scott Turnbull

Staff Attendance: Mark Perry, Cathy Muir

Not Present: Audrey Gillis and Linda Houston

Board Chair

Board Chair, Allen Herskowitz, called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

Mark Perry handed out the Impact Report, which has been mailed out, and asked everyone to read it.

Mission Moment

Summer Camps – Exciting Education Experiences – Shannon Dack, Educational Specialist.

Summer camp has had a few changes. The teen immergence camp has been eliminated because that age group camp is difficult to fill. A week was added to the younger age group which always fills up early and quickly and has a waiting list. Summer Camp is Education's largest income which was \$26,079 in 2019. It is a summer of learning, curiosity not fear and stewardship through fun. Next summer, because of construction, the home for the summer camp will be the Education room. Shannon Dack hopes to sustain her numbers next year and grow the program in the future.

Matt Hooks complimented Shannon Dack on her camp. He said there are many camps around but the FOS camp is **the** one everyone wants to attend.

Gary Goforth congratulated Zack Jud on his two new grants. He also remarked on the great numbers in Admissions and the Gift Shop.

Mark Perry reported that the new research lab has been set up. It still needs post installation modifications which are being worked on.

The ray tank is being refurbished and has been closed since December 1, 2019 and should reopen December 13, 2019.

Consent Items

- A. Minutes from the Board Meeting November 13, 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 November 13, 2019 meeting and the consent agenda. It was voted on and unanimously approved.

Financial Report, December, 2019 Matt King, Chair

The Financial Statements were not available for the meeting. Matt King said when the statements become available there will be a Finance Committee meeting to review them and present to the Board.

Capital Campaign Update – Pat Noonan, Chair & Nancy Perry, CFRE

- Nancy Perry announced that we have a total of 109 donors - \$5,829,654. Endowment remains the same.
- Steven Swann has given us two referrals
- We have five new committed gifts of \$24M
- FPL paid \$10M with a potential for an additional multi-year gift
- An additional \$203M in pledge payments was received
- We have \$262M in invoices to be submitted to the TDC Grant
- Barbara Birdsey will host a cocktail party at Geoffrey Smith's gallery to raise the remainder of the funds for the Treasure Coast Sculpture
- There was discussion that when we have a shell of a building, we host a "shell party" as a fundraiser.

Capital Expansion Update – Facility Task Group, Nancy Rand Chair

- No Report

Zabik and Associates Update Report

- Larry Zabik stated that his report was informational only. There were no change orders last month.
- The January budget will include the December budget
- Releasing the purchases orders for the Bridge and Colorad for fabrication will be revisited in January 2020.
- The slab pour is scheduled for December 12, 2019.
- John Amerling attended the Tuesday construction meeting and commended Larry Zabik on how it was well run.
- Gary Goforth complimented Larry Zabik on how low his percentage of change orders are, which right now is at 1%.
- Larry Zabik also reported that he has hired an independent consultant to research the third floor deck surface. It was recommended that there should be a slight slope for drainage which would be ADA compliant and not be a safety issue. He will report on that at the January 2020 meeting.
- Mark Perry stated that the exhibit design is currently being reviewed in detail by the Education staff as well as the lead staff.

Development Committee Update, Linda Houston, Chair

- The Board Chair reported that the Development Chair has some scheduling conflicts and will only be able to attend one meeting in 2020. There was some discussion about moving the meeting and some other options but it was tabled until the January 2020 meeting.

Governance & Nominating Committee, Scott Turnbull, Chair

No Report

Strategic Planning and Task Group, Paul Hederman, Chair

- Paul Hederman has set January 16, 2020 as the next Strategic Planning Task Group meeting. He would like to discuss the report from the Compensation Consultant and report to the Board at the next meeting. He would also like to discuss the organizational structure.
- The third item Paul Hederman would like to discuss is the Strategic Plan. Mark Perry reported that there are 114 goals and 41 key strategies which are continuously being worked on and tracked. The Strategic Plan will be reviewed annually.
- Mark Perry announced that we have hired a Communications and Public Relations Coordinator and she will start on Monday, December 16, 2019.

Information Technology Task Group – Dan Merritt, Chair

- Dan Merritt has had discussions with Mark Baer about going to the cloud. The items of importance discussed are storage, speed, security, equipment needed and a low voltage plan.
- The new building will have Wi Fi access and we should have better coverage with the elevation.
- Brittany Biber has installed wireless cameras to keep track of the property during construction.

Advocacy Task Group- Gary Goforth, Chair

- Gary Goforth met with Senator Gayle Harrell about putting out correct numbers regarding water quality. He emphasized that we need to provide the correct numbers because the water issue has such an impact on human and animal health.
- Gary Goforth has requested that volunteers send emails to the SFWMD and he is assisting with providing key points. There are 750 permits and they are not being enforced. There have been cut backs on regulations and no follow ups.
- Gary Goforth has been in communication with Nikki Fried, the Agricultural Commissioner and sent her his maps to be discussed. He also sent the maps to Drew Bartlett who said they would be presented at the SFWMD Board meeting
- Bull Sugar and Friends of the Everglades have merged.
- Mark Perry and Gary Goforth are attending and participating in the Everglades Conference January 9 to 11, 2020.
- America's Amazon: The Story of the St. Lucie River will be shown at the Lyric Theater on January 16, 2020. It is presented by FOS, The Historical Society of Martin County and WQCS.

- Gary Goforth attended the Volunteer Holiday Social and stated that we are blessed to have so many knowledgeable and passionate volunteers. Paul Hederman also attended the social and agreed that we have special volunteers.

Mark Perry thanked Bob Mathias for helping him with the Pro Forma updates. He noted that in 1994 we charged \$3.00 for adults and \$1.50 for children. Since that time, there have been 5 increases, the last one in 2013. It was suggested that we build in the increase. This this will be presented at next month's Board meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 pm. The next meeting will be held on January 22, 2020 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,

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