

**Florida Oceanographic Society  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
October 23, 2019**

**Board Present:** Allen Herskowitz, Board Chair, - John Amerling; - Mark Cocorullo, - Audrey Gillis, - Gary Goforth,, - Paul Hederman, - Matt Hooks, - Linda Houston, - Matt King, - Bob Mathias, - Dan Merritt, - Patricia Noonan, - Nancy Rand and Scott Turnbull.

**Board Present via Telephone:**

**Staff Attendance:** Mark Perry, Cathy Muir

**Not Present:**

**Board Chair**

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

**Mission Moment**

Begin construction on the New Ocean EcoCenter, Mark Perry, Executive Director

- Mark Perry thanked everyone who attended the Groundbreaking Ceremony. We had a large turnout and it was a great event.
- A weekly construction meeting is held on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. at the Coastal Center and all Board members were invited to attend. The meetings give a two week look ahead with a detailed schedule. The minutes from the meetings will be posted on the Board website.
- The statue has been moved. Geoffrey Smith was in attendance for the move and everyone likes the new location.
- William Scottsman will remove the research trailer on November 7, 2019.
- The ray tank will be redone on December 2, 2019 and we might have to close for a day.
- Gary Goforth commended the Research Department for making the seagrass nursery accessible for visitors to view.
- We welcomed our millionth visitor on June 14, 2019.

**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. Pat Noonan seconded it. It was voted on and unanimously approved.

### Financial Report October 2019, Matt King, Chair

- Cash is over \$4M
- Outstanding pledges are at \$417K
- Liabilities: Accounts Payable \$46K is the 29K ongoing accrual for the Seagrass Grant
- Operating Funds have \$277K
- \$2M was transferred from the Treasury Bill into the Northern Trust 5482 account. The Fed has cut rates so there is no reason to keep funds in 30 day Bill.
- The Capital Reserve Northern Trust account 5494 is for any Center needs
- Admissions are up, general contributions are strong and membership is a little behind.
- Education is down because grants anticipated were not received. Research is also down due to some grants not received.
- Oceans Alive exceeded budget
- Animal Care expenses are within budget, Education is a little above and Research is below due to Director of Research position still open.
- The year ended with a \$80,120 surplus

### FY 2020 Operating Budget

- Admissions is backed down; Education is in line with last year; Membership needs to improve and Special Events budget needs to come up
- Healthcare is not in the budget but lack of it has been an obstacle to bring new employees on board. The cost of Healthcare would be approximately \$64K annually and it was suggested that we divide that cost between Membership, Contributions and Oceans Alive.
- Paul Hederman suggested that we hire a Compensation Consultant to evaluate salaries and compensation packages. The one time cost would be \$10K and could come out of our year-end surplus.
- Gary Goforth again requested that we have a full time Advocacy staff member. He said he would chair a subcommittee to create an advocacy team and look for grants to fund the costs.
- Scott Turnbull made a motion to approve the budget as presented and include Healthcare. Mark Cocorullo seconded the motion. It was voted on and unanimously approved. It was also agreed that \$10K would come out of the reserve account to pay for the Compensation Plan.

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

- Pat Noonan encouraged all Board members to contribute something to the Capital Campaign so we have 100% Board participation. She stated that potential donors look at that before making a decision to give.
- Nancy Perry reported that we have increased our Capital Campaign totals to 97 donors, \$5,726,644 committed/pledged. Endowment 4 bequest gifts totaling \$200K, a percentage estate legacy gift and 2 notifications of legacy estate gifts. Also, an estate gift of \$750K, written pledge received.
- Positive responses from 9 potential donors but no amount yet
- Upcoming meeting with Tiger Woods PR VP
- Working with Geoffrey Smith on the Coral Reef Sculpture for the Building Entrance. He has raised \$50K for the project which is independent from our Capital Campaign.
- Also, 38 prospects have been handed plans. Working on setting appointments for 55 highly rated prospects.

### Capital Expansion Update – Facility Task Group, Nancy Rand Chair Zabik and Associates Update Report

- Larry Zabik gave us a list of upcoming scheduled milestones:  
Construction start September 16  
Foundation Footer 1<sup>st</sup> pour October 25  
Slab pour 3<sup>rd</sup> week of November
- It was requested that we release ColorAd to complete exhibit shop drawings
- Minor revisions to be issued this week  
Relocation of housekeeping pads  
Third floor restroom revisions  
Office layout revisions
- Minor revisions are underway for the Bridge and cost implications were discussed. This will be updated next month.

### Development Committee Update, Linda Houston, Chair

- Linda Houston reported that the Development calendar is updated. We are taking a break from the Clay Shoot and moving the donor luncheon to February.
- The Ocean Legacy Event will be added. This will be a thank you to the Ocean Legacy Society and held in December.
- Oceans Alive has a theme, “Oceans Alive 25” and Jaqui Thurlow Lippisch has agreed to be recognized as the honoree for the evening.
- We are looking to upgrade our Business Partner Program.
- Rally for the River is scheduled for November 16.
- The Development Calendar is posted to the Board Website.

Governance & Nominating Committee, Scott Turnbull, Chair

- Scott Turnbull reported that he has a potential new Board member and will keep us updated.

Strategic Planning and Task Group, Paul Hederman, Chair

- Paul Hederman said there would be a meeting scheduled after the first of the year. He is also working with a consultant for the Compensation plan.

Information Technology Task Group – Dan Merritt, Chair

- Dan Merritt continues to work with our Technology Specialist, Mark Baer with suggestions for the new building.

Advocacy Task Group- Gary Goforth, Chair

- Mark Perry and Gary Goforth both participated in the Stuart Rotary Water Forum on October 5, 2019, discussing how water quality effects public health.
- Mark Perry and Gary Goforth have also been attending the South Florida Water Management District Meetings as well as the Rivers Coalition meetings.
- FOS hosted the EVCO Quarterly meeting on October 18, 2019.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:02 pm. The next meeting will be held on November 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,

---

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