

READ 10/19

MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING, FRIENDS OF READ 10/26/19

1. Meeting called to order 11:10 am at Read Nature Center by President Jana Seitz. Member of Friends board and general members present. Minutes of 2018 annual meeting approved.
2. Report of President. Thanks to Camela Morrissey and Kassandra Souply for running the first annual photography contest. Thanks to Ralph and Patty Vellone for all their service, including arranging the lunch to follow. They received a plaque. Thanks to Curator Michael Gambino for 10 years of service; received a plaque. Thanks to all vols. Jerry Ostroff, the Schollmahmer sisters and Christian Degenhardt got a special mention. Review of past year. Advocating at County Board of Legislators for additional assistant curators. Friends paid for two new boardwalks—plans on display. Membership approaching 2000. Have funds to spend on new projects, plus education and advocacy. Planning Oktoberfest for 10/17/20. New Outreach Committee, new Friends of Friends (of county parks) and new Gardening Committee proposed. See attached report.
3. Report from Taro Ietaka, County recreation director. Thanked Friends and volunteers. Status of tide gate: County has contracted with engineering firm to install new electrical control (capital project). Filter cartridges in Playland parking lot: need to be replaced. Involves new cartridges and labor. Have a grant but needs public contribution. See attached.
4. Report of Vice President, Cynthia Howard, also covering treasurer's report. Membership over 1900, plus 4000 on Read mailing and email list. Have Facebook presence. \$61,000 paid in dues this year. Have paid for boardwalks, trees, supplies, programs, photo contest, etc. Discussion by general members. See attached report.
5. Report of Curator. Michael reviewed his 10 years at the park, changes, reaction to Superstorm Sandy, plantings, wildlife, invasives. Slideshow of wildlife and park developments over time. Had 22,000 visitors in last year. Thanks Friends. Could use more help. Discussion of keeping dogs out. See attached report.

6. Elections. Unanimously confirmed election of new members to board: Camela Morrissey; Philip Horner; Ethan Gray; and Carrie Donahue. Reelected to new 3year terms: Joy Reidenberg; Paul Rheingold, Ed Piacente. Officers will be voted on in November meeting.
7. Old and new business: Playland and Sustainable. They wound up business giving Read Friends money which will go toward the fall festival. Attendees discussed having reminder for monthly meetings emailed, as well as Minutes from meetings. To be discussed at November meeting.

Meeting concluded 12:28 pm. Adjourned for lunch, live jazz and unveiling of winning photographs. Weather made it a lovely fall day.

Minutes submitted by Paul D. Rheingold, acting secretary