



Hillsborough River State Park Preservation Society

15402 U.S. 301 N., Thonotosassa, FL 33592

CSO President Wade Prevatt - Phone: (813) 952-4739

<https://www.historyandnature.org/>

General Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, 7/16/2026

Executive Board members present: Wade Prevatt, Sue Moulton, & Tricia Demers.

Board members present: Cary Ann Prevatt & Danny Pass

Park Staff in attendance: Park Manager Chris Sardinas & Assistant Park Manager Patrick Waddell

Also present: Marie Philbrick

Meeting called to order at 6:37pm by Wade Prevatt.

Executive Committee Updates:

Approval of Minutes: Wade Prevatt presented the June minutes for approval. Danny motioned to approve, Sue seconded, motion passed.

Treasury Report:

General Account:

Beginning Balance: **\$31,210.68**

June Total QR code deposit with Zeffy: **\$1,588.00**

Ranger Station (QR)

Firewood bags: **\$760.00**

Ice: **\$370.00**

Stickers: **\$375.00**

Duraflame starter: **\$2.00**

Additional Donations: **\$11.00**

New CSO Membership, Cliff Valliere: **\$30.00**

Campground (QR)

Firewood bags: **\$30.00**

Ice: **\$10.00**

Campground (Cash)

Firewood bags: **\$50.00**

Firewood singles: **\$3.00**

Ice: **\$45.00**

Total Cash Income: \$98.00

Expenses Reported:

TECO: **\$171.36**

Paper Pusher – QuickBooks (May – June at \$281.40 ea.): **\$562.80**
Firewood: **\$840.00**
Ice: **\$609.00**
(2) Sticker Container Organizers: **\$35.45**
(100 stickers) Sticker Pilot: **\$63.65**
Ink: **\$60.11**

Total Expenses: \$2,342.37
Total Income: \$1,686.00
Net Income: (\$656.37)
Ending Balance: \$30,098.31

Fort Foster June Treasury Report:

Beginning Balance: **\$12,481.20**

Expenses:

Port O' Potty Cleanings: \$468.00

Total Income: \$0.00

Net Income: **(\$468.00)**

Ending Balance: \$12,013.20

Old Business:

The repairman fixed the washer in the Village. Advised us not to do large loads on low water level setting– this was straining the belt. A note has been placed on the washer as a reminder for large water levels to match large load.

No progress still with Jorge. We can't sell our merchandise to him for him to turn around and resell. We will have to do monthly events / recruiting events to sell our merchandise. We will just keep doing what we have done at events – set up tent and sell merchandise. Will need to have the vendor form completed and approved – Chris will send Cary the forms to complete. The merchandise tent will sell our shirts, cups and stickers.
If approved,

Cary can set up in the campground on 8/22, 9/12, 9/19, & 10/3.

CSO documents needed for the District have all been approved and should be kept on file now. The District office has copies.

New Business:

Carl and Gail have moved out – Hales are not going to be volunteering with us anymore. They were going to be selling our firewood and Ice. We will now need to find someone to help with firewood and Ice sales from the golfcart. The burn ban has been lifted – now is the time for campfires and an increase in firewood sales.

The 2nd ice cooler in the Village has broken down now – it just quit freezing. Sue reminds us that we need someone to check to make sure that it has been unplugged. Only need to refill the one at the Ranger Station and the white one. We now have 2 freezers to get rid of.

Chris put in for some supplies needed, \$737.95 estimated total. The CSO will provide this – we are here to help fill in the gaps. This will help them get some stuff fixed and keep things

running.

Requested items: Radiator Hose \$25.99, Power Steering Pump \$93.99, Cylinder Starter \$299.99, Pulley \$57.99, Ford F-150 Battery \$199.99, and (4) gallons of Coolant \$60.00

Upcoming Events:

Haunted Woods – October 16 & 17

Justin said he wants to help where he can, he just doesn't want to commit like he did last year. The CSO isn't sure if he will take on a scare zone or maybe part of the trail. We are trying to see when he can come to a meeting.

Josh Bowman is willing and interested to help as well. Wade wants to get the two of them together and discuss the event, assign zones and get volunteers placed.

Marie is present at tonight's meeting. She will be doing face painting in the Kid's Zone/ Trunk Or Treat area this year. She has all of her materials and understands this is on a volunteer basis and will be responsible for her own expenses. She is interested in staying in the Village again this year. She would also like to use any leftover pallets build / prop up around her canopy. Chris will let us know if there is room in the Village once he looks at the schedule of volunteers that will be here in October.

Still discussing the possibility of chairpersons for different areas of the Haunted Woods. We need folks interested in organizing these positions.

Sue is working on ticket sales coverage, and she has determined that her option for DJ may not be reliable. She has another option, who is on vacation now, but she will keep working on it.

Danny has been given the go ahead to proceed with the theme of the Pumpkin Heads logo for marketing. Some marketing has already been posted.

We decided the Kids Scare Trail will not be done this year, but the kids will have the Trunk or Treat area with face painting and inflatables in place around the Trunk or Treat area. Consensus that the Trunk or Treat will be the Kids Scare Zone area.

Sue suggested that we need a map to provide visitors with directions.

We are informing Chris of when we will need to block off the pavilions for the event – weekend before the event so we can set up and prepare and then the weekend of the event – Pavilions #3 and #12 reserved for the Haunted Woods. Chris will tell Jorge not to reserve the Pavilions from 10/10-10/20/26.

We will have the same food vendors as last year. In 2025 we charged \$100.00 for both nights. Chris recommended we increase the fees (\$100/night or \$150/both). Food is in demand and there is a following for some of the food trucks. Chris suggested we do food in-house (retain all income) but we must get approval from Jorge – maybe offer 50/50 (we both need volunteers for food prep and service). All confirm that the food trucks offer more of a variety and all of them want to come back. Suggestion of having the fee for food trucks

increased and allow some advertising conjunction with marketing of Haunted Woods event. Patrick reminded us that the vendor agreement will need to be completed.

Is Chris B going to let us use his light towers this year? We need to check with him on these. Some CSO members offered to build our own. If we are going to do this, we need to begin gathering parts and materials.

The Haunted Woods budget was set at \$7,000 at the beginning of year. We may need to adjust this as we get closer to the event.

We found the banner when we were cleaning out the Carriage House. We need to make sure we get this out and hung up the beginning of August.

OneBlood will be there both nights. They will be giving away t-shirts and gift cards after blood donations.

Sue inquired about how the volunteers came in last year. Main gate? We should have them show up 2 hours prior to starting time, so they beat the rush and help with set up.

School groups would be a good source of help. Cary emailed a school from the old sign-up sheet we had on file (Plant City Drama Club), they did the Trunk or Treat last year. She also emailed a teacher at Pasco High School.

Cary – what is the age limit for child to volunteer? Patrick providing some details on requirements – Parent must be with them and there are certain things they cannot do. An email was submitted about an 8 year old, that is too young. There is not a lot they can do alone, and a parent will need to be there the whole time. We must be aware of the child labor laws and interacting within volunteering.

ROTC could do the parking – they need the volunteer hours. For this district we are connecting with Strawberry Crest and Armwood High Schools.

Can we solicit donations or sponsorship for the event? Patrick providing some feedback – we can have sponsorship and reminder that the Rangers cannot interact, but the CSO can. If a local business wanted to sponsor the park it would be a tax write-off for them. Danny mentioned we would want a writeup for this – to hand out and market for the sponsorships.

Patrick provides some ideas and ways to help us raise funds with goals set as a guide to what we want to achieve. What kind of incentives can we offer for the donations? Glamping donation nights? Silent auction, games of chance – some ideas...

There will be a pumpkin carving contest again this year with the Rangers running it and judging. Last year Cheryl and Barbie judged.

Ranger Updates:

Chris introduced everyone to Patrick again. He has a lot of experience in volunteering and CSO support.

The Volunteer Coordinator position has been filled and he will be starting August 14th. His name is Michael Schucart and he is from Henderson Reach State Park in Destin, FL.

July is the Parks limbo budget month. They don't know what is going to happen next year or how much money they will have to work with. Rely on CSO a lot during this time for needs to be met.

Round Table:

Richard Fulton resigned from the Treasurer as of 7/16/26. We need to fill the Treasurer position if anyone knows somebody that would be interested, please have them reach out to Wade.

Sue will check in the shed for any more Haunted Woods items. (looking for the wrist bands)

Marie suggested we sell the bottom part of trees that were cut down and can be used as starters.

Wade received an email from the Zephyrhills Rotary offering for anything the park may need – he will reach back out and start getting them involved.

Fort Foster – Fort Foster Candlelight is December 12th -13th, 2026 and Fort Foster Days is February 13th -14th 2027.

Next CSO Meeting: Thursday, 8/6/2026 at 6:30PM.

Danny motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:02PM, seconded by Cary, motion passed.
Minutes recorded by Tricia Demers, Secretary