



## 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: Tuesday, April 7, 2026

#### **Attendance:**

Executive Board Members present: Wade Prevatt, Susan Moulton, Tricia Demers

Executive Board Members absent: Richard Fulton

Board Members in attendance: Ruth Cheverie, Rick Cheverie, Cary Prevatt, Gary Fields, Danny Pass and Harry Lindenmuth – both via Teams

Park Staff in attendance: Chris Sardinas, Cheryl Metzger, Barbie Covertt

Meeting called to order at 6:33 PM by Wade Prevatt

A Quorum was established.

**Motion 1:** To fill the vacant executive board position of secretary left by Miranda Brigham.

Moved by: Wade Prevatt, Seconded by: Rick Cheverie, Result: Motion Carried

**Motion 2:** To vote in Tricia Demers for Secretary.

Moved by: Wade Prevatt, Seconded by: Rick Cheverie, Result: Voice votes unanimous (11 in favor/0 opposed)

**Motion 3:** To accept the minutes from the meeting on March 3, 2026.

Moved by: Susan Moulton, Seconded by: Gary Fields, Result: Motion Carried

**Treasury Report:** Read by Wade

**HRSP Beginning Balance: \$31,639.46**

**QR Income: \$1,874.00**

Firewood at Ranger Station: \$770.00

Firewood in campground: \$10.00

Firewood singles in campground: \$3.00

Ice at Ranger Station: \$650.00

Ice in campground: \$25.00

Stickers at Ranger Station: \$305.00

Merchandise Tent at Fort Foster tours (3/21): \$71.00

Additional Donations: \$10.00

New CSO Memberships: \$30.00

**Cash Income: \$831.00**

Firewood bags in campground: \$250.00

Firewood singles in campground: \$37.00

Ice in campground: \$295.00

Merchandise Tent at Bathhouse #58 (3/20): \$227.00

Merchandise at Fort Foster tours (3/21): \$3.00

Additional Donations: \$19.00

**Expenses total: 2,883.84**

TECO: \$168.29

Paper Pusher – QuickBooks: \$281.40

Firewood: \$1,260.00

ICE: \$252.00

Earth Day wildflower seeds: \$18.00

Amazon (Spool Gun, golf cart plug, & Earth Day stamps): \$494.59

Walmart (potting soil, fire starters, money markers): \$34.77

Ice Cream Social: \$30.54

Volunteer Appreciation Day (3/4): \$236.25

200 stickers/50 DTF decals: \$106.00

Bank Statement Fee: \$2.00

**Net income: (\$178.84)**

**Ending Balance: \$31,460.62**

**Fort Foster Beginning Balance: \$12,470.20****Cash Income: \$15.00**

Sutler/Trader Fees (check): \$15.00

No Expenses

**Ending Balance: \$12,485.20**

**Old Business:**

- Carriage House clean out was started – Needs Chris to look over remaining items
- Rec Hall- Justin removed all of the Haunted Woods items
- Cedar Landing needs to be cleaned out and items moved to Carriage House
- Confirmed everyone is getting the minutes, Wade will continue to email them to Board members
- Nothing negative about the wood coming from the new firewood vendor – it's dry
  - The new vendor is saving us around \$100.00 since there is no delivery fee
  - We will continue with them as our preferred vendor
- Fire Crew shirts – Cheryl & Chris
  - Using Simmons Engraving and they come to about \$18.77 per shirt
  - Will add the Volunteer shirts with the Fire Crew order

- Need to determine if everyone prefers long or short sleeves and what sizes we should order
- We get a price break with orders of 100 shirts
- Chris said that each volunteer gets 2 shirts
- Sample shirt – logo is big and rough – logo needs to be smaller
- Cheryl presented past shirt for reference
- Needs to be 100% cotton – preshrunk would be good too
- Check with printer if there are any specific silk-screening requirements
- Fire Crew helmets need reflective lettering
  - Two options available to choose from – an inexpensive option and a little more expensive option (during day lettering black and then night it is reflective)
  - More expensive because it requires two sheets of black reflective

### **New Business:**

- Richard is no longer in The Village – Sue will be coming in once a week to collect monies for him
- Volunteers, Cheri & Richard have been filling in and selling the firewood & ice, but are leaving soon
- Potluck on 4/2 in the village
  - Went well – food was good
  - Wish more volunteers showed up – Sue suggested having another one in May
  - Inquiry on the volunteer/host numbers for summer – Chris stated hosting positions in the campground are filled but maintenance spots are slim in The Village
- Purchased a new receptacle for the Easy Go golf cart
  - Lithium-ion battery has been ordered and will be delivered to Ranger John on 4/8.
- Cary – park shirts – going to try the heat press to replenish our existing stock
  - Ordered shirts- \$80.00 cost for (30) with 50% off sale
  - Wade spoke to Samantha from Paper Pusher and Loni Welch from PDR CPA accounting firm and was told that since the CSO made less than \$50k last year we did not have to complete the formal filing with the accounting firm and could just file a 990N, which saved \$1,400.
  - Completed post card filing
  - Taxes for 2025 have been completed and filed
- Chris sent Wade the 2026 legislative form – required to have it completed by May 1<sup>st</sup>
  - Already started filling it out

### **Upcoming Events:**

- **Respect Your Mother/Earth Day Event – April 18, 2026 from 10 am-2 pm – Ranger Barbie**

- Can we have some funds to provide lunches for the volunteers?
  - Platters from Publix – with a few vegan options
  - 35 people – no more than 45, including the CSO members
  - Doesn't have to be Publix if anyone has other ideas
- Canopies
  - CSO has 4 in the trailer, would like to use them for backup in case of rain
- Dunk tank
  - Holds 450 gallons of water- will take about 45 mins to fill
  - Rental Cost \$275.00
  - Drop off on Friday 4/17 between 1-3pm, pick up on Sat. 4/18 between 3-4pm
  - Would like dropped off before 3:30pm, need to determine drop off location (field or sidewalk?)
  - Park will fill it with water from water truck- we are still on water restrictions and need to watch our water usage
- Let Barbie know if you need anything else from her on that day
- CSO Merchandise tent will be set up with tables
- The map will be a little different this year, it will send it to Wade on 4/8
- Sign made last year for the dunk tank was kept at the dunk tank table, so they knew to pay there and will reuse this year
- Need volunteers and Rangers to staff the dunk tank – will send out an email and see if anyone is able to help out
- Water Canteens – 50 were donated and will be handed out for completed passports

### **Haunted Woods October 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>**

- We will begin planning for this event at the next meeting

### **Media & Advertising: Danny**

- Changed all meeting minutes to PDF so they can be read online on the CSO website
- Website has old QR code for Haunted Woods and will be updated
- There were some miscommunications on social media about caterpillars in the campground
- New design for the park sticker – “Welcome to the River” with alligator and racoon is being sold in the Ranger Station and it has been requested to be put on other merchandise

- Need to update the visual appeal of the CSO tent and table
  - Sent picture to Cary of new tablecloths to share with everyone
  - Existing banner needs to be replaced and would like to work on the overall look

#### **Park Ranger Updates:** Cheryl

- Speaking on county commissioner meeting in downtown Tampa
- Increasing Two Rivers subdivision housing from 704 to as high as 8,000 dwellings
- County program of land acquisition – price has been high, but they are interested and it would help the conservation of the Blackwater Creek Preserve County Park – access off 39
- Would create an east west corridor adding in trails
- Need to get word out on social media
- Need voices speaking up on this – they need to hear opposition to wildlife losing / running out of space rapidly. Write letters – say something
- The land due North of the park has been deemed residential – they will build houses right up to our park fence.
- Cheryl presents maps showing the land in discussion and points out the residential areas at the border of the park
- Danny – send him some links so he can make some graphics for social media
- Park Rangers must be neutral – State employees can go to the meeting and listen but can't speak up
- Volunteers can go and talk as residents of the county but not as Board Members of the park

#### **Park Manager Updates:** Chris

- Fort Foster – talking with two companies that are interested in filming movies at the Fort
- One company will be filming a movie based on “A Land Remembered”
  - They are requesting Soldiers
- 3 Rats Entertainment is filming a civil war historical and will use the Fort as a backdrop
  - Asked about Seminole re-enactors
  - Harry to reach out to his contacts for available or interested re-enactors
- Park Inspectors – 4/23-4/24
  - Visually check out the park - how the staff is dressed, operations and check our files
  - Aesthetically we will make sure park looks presentable
- Friday 4/24 need a CSO representative to attend the CSO Presidents Meeting- whoever on the board wants to go just let him know

- We are filling in the gaps we have in staffing – interviews for Assistant Park Manager and Park Rangers are coming up and we will soon have all positions filled including Park Service Specialist.
- River clean-up is on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, which is actually Earth Day- will be kayaking and collecting trash and fishing lines from the river
- Only staff that are kayak trained can participate
- Would like to give out some of the new stickers (15) to participants
- In staff Work Day- 3 day invasive treatment- FLCC will be doing this
- Would like the CSO to provide lunches. Will get a head count so we can check with Hungry Howie's for pizza donations

**Decision on date and time for the next Board Meeting:**

- May 7<sup>th</sup> at the Blazing Star Pavilion
- CSO Potluck/ meet and greet
- 6:00 PM – eat first then hold meeting at 6:30 PM

**Round Table:**

- Harry– needs flag back from Chris, he wants to make a regular cloth one.

**Next CSO meeting will be on May 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00PM at Blazing Star Pavilion**

**Motion 4:** Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM

Moved by: Susan Moulton, Seconded by: Rick Cheverie, Result: Motion Carried

Minutes Recorded By: Tricia Demers, CSO Secretary