



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, 5/5/2026

Executive Board members present: Wade Prevatt, Sue Moulton, Richard Fulton, and Tricia Demers.

Board members present: Harry Lindenmuth, Gary Fields, Cary Ann Prevatt, Rick Cheverie, and Ruth Cheverie.

Park Staff in attendance: Chris Sardinias

Meeting called to order at 6:32pm by Wade Prevatt.

Executive Committee Updates:

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

CSO Presidents meeting update presented by Wade Prevatt. Meeting had good information to share and provide. A lot of parks are dealing with recruiting and growing – not just us. Provided with ideas on fundraising.

After-Action Report: Earth Day Event – Respect Your Mother 4/18/2026

Overall, we had a good event. Barbie had all areas set up. Merchandise booth did well. Dunk tank was not as productive.

We fed all the vendors – something we have not done in past. We would provide food for volunteers but generally we did not provide food for the vendors. Consensus reached that we will not be feeding vendors at future events.

Discussion on doing something other than dunk tank next year. Suggestion for a kids' casting contest. Some of the food trucks were calling and not getting in touch with anyone. In future we make contact prior to the event with the food trucks. Food was in high demand.

Treasury Report:

General Account:

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

April's Total QR code deposit with Zeffy: **\$1,992.00**

Ranger Station (QR)

Firewood bags: **\$440.00**

Ice: **\$565.00**

Stickers: **\$400.00**

Fire Starter: **\$2.00**

Lighter: **\$3.00**

Additional Donations (QR): **\$1.00**

Campground (QR)

Firewood bags: **\$50.00**

Ice: **\$45.00**

HRSP Merchandise Sold (QR):

Earth Day Merchandise Tent: **\$417.00**

Earth Day Dunk Tank: **\$69.00**

Campground (Cash)

Firewood: **\$110.00**

Ice: **\$165.00**

HRSP Merchandise costs: (Cash)

Earth Day Merchandise Tent: **(\$95.00)**

Earth Day Dunk Tank: **(\$78.00)**

Additional Donations (Cash): **\$1.00**

Total Cash Income: \$276.00

Expenses Reported:

TECO: **\$206.39**

Paper Pusher-QuickBooks: **\$281.40**

Firewood: **\$420.00**

Ice: **\$353.20**

CSO Potluck: **\$43.33**

Firestarter: **\$5.25**

Reflective vinyl: **\$42.98**

Water Sealer: **\$89.54**

Earth Day Markers: **\$8.50**

Earth Day Food & Water: **\$94.25**

Earth Day Dunk Tank rental: **\$275.00**

Raffle Basket items: **\$13.44**

Golf cart lithium: **\$816.99**

Ice Cooler (new w/2 yr warranty): **\$301.72**

(30) Blank Shirts: **\$80.30**

DTF Shirt transfers: **\$175.66**

Sticker Pilot (200): **\$58.00**

Sticker Mule (52): **\$17.00**

Bank Statement Fee: **\$2.00**

Total Expenses: \$3,284.95

Total Income: \$2,268.00

Net Income: (\$843.95)

Ending Balance: \$30,443.67

Fort Foster April Treasury Report:

Beginning Balance: \$12,485.20

Expenses:

Bank Statement Fee: **\$2.00**

Total Income: \$0.00

Net Income: **(\$2.00)**

Ending Balance: \$12,483.20

Wade will check to see if the bank will let us access statements online to remove the \$2.00 print fee.

Old Business:

We need another workday to finalize the carriage house. We need to determine if we are keeping what is in there or if it is okay to get rid of it. We would need Chris for this and to keep him from having to work on his day off, idea presented to have Chris go in and tag (paper note) during the week on keep or get rid of items. Suggestion presented to have CSO Potluck to coincide with the workday. Decision made to have workday on Saturday, 5/16 from 9am – 12pm Noon and Potluck lunch to follow. The park staff and volunteers are invited. Cary Ann will prepare a flyer, and Chris will send it out with emails.

Wade told the board that the reflective / glow in the dark vinyl for the fire crew helmets was ordered and delivered.

Cheryl noticed the trees on the design proof were changed and asked Wade to have them corrected. Wade contacted the vendor to have the design show native trees but has not received the revised proof.

Wade ordered the HRSP volunteer “Real Florida” shirts for the park volunteers.

CSO was asked by Cheryl to provide lunch for the in-staff workday, there was some confusion if it was one day or three days. CSO offered to provide bagels/ donuts on the first day at 9am. Cary will coordinate pizza for lunch for 10 people on Thursday.

Park staff is very happy with the results of the lithium battery conversion for the golf cart. The charge lasts several days. Chris is going to price out the lithium conversion for the other golf carts.

New Business:

We had to replace the broken freezer at the Ranger Station. One of the ice freezers in the Village is on its last leg. It is still cooling but is making a knocking sound.

Recommendation made to Lee’s Ice to keep it 20-30% full. Don’t fill it so if it goes out, we don’t lose an entire freezer of ice. Suggestion made to call Chris Beisler to come look at it.

Wade and Chris have made multiple attempts to reach Jorge (he has the park contract for vending). Cary and Wade stopped by the rental shop to see him. We got his phone

number and left him a voicemail. Chris has left multiple voicemails as well. Jorge has the contractual right to sell merchandise and camping goods in the rental store. The CSO has always worked under the premise that if the rental store was closed, the CSO could sell camping goods as well. However, the CSO needs to get this in writing because the contract states that the CSO can only sell merchandise/ products during “events”.

Upcoming Events:

Haunted Woods scheduled for October 16th – 17th. Wade asked Danny to create a poster for the website so we can start advertising now. We need all the time for advertising that we can get. Last year’s budget was \$3000, and we increased it to \$7000 for this year. Wade is working on breaking down the budget for each category / event to see our actual spending.

Discussion on the light towers for Haunted Wood. Last year we rented 5 LED light towers for \$1500.00. If we are going to use Chris Beisler’s light towers, we need to reserve them now (3-4 on hold now). Last year Chris rented all of them to Temple Terrace.

The CSO could make LED light bars mounted to extendable poles. We have one in the park.

The suggestion was made to have a Haunted Woods Chairperson, Volunteer Organizer and Food Truck Organizer. This would provide a POC for each area. Sue suggested the first week in June to start formalizing those involved in Haunted Woods.

OneBlood is committed to attending the Haunted Woods on Friday and Saturday. They will be offering Halloween shirts and gift cards for blood donations. They asked if we could put up some posters around the park. They need a parking place (6 cars wide) for their bus.

During the 5/16 workday, we need to check the condition of the banners for Haunted Woods.

Do we know if we are going to have folks in the park September / October to help us with Haunted Woods? Chris noted that the park does not have the calendar scheduled that far out yet, they are working on the summer volunteers now. We can start any construction and props at least 2 months prior in the Rec Hall. Meredith, Roger and the Pangelinan family were a lot of help last year – do we know if they are going to be back this year?

The food for Haunted Woods – we need to get in touch with Jorge. All the food truck money goes to them and not the park. We can keep selling merchandise at the events,

but we need to get it in writing from Jorge if we are going to take over concessions. We will continue to reach out to him.

Question raised, are we allowed to have sponsors for the Haunted Woods event to help with the costs? Chris said he would investigate it and see what the CSO handbook states.

Wade stated he remembered there were rules prohibiting sponsorships for membership and would investigate this as well.

Fort Foster Candlelight will be 12/12/2027 & 12/13/2027.

Fort Foster Days will be 2/13/2027 & 2/14/2027.

Park Manager Updates:

Chris stated that the park inspection was pushed out until June now.

New APM will start on 5/29 and is moving here on the 19th. His name is Patrick Waddell and has a big skill set. He is a great teacher / instructor, which will benefit the park and staff.

HR rejected the recommendation for the Volunteer Coordinator position. Chris is starting over with that application process.

Angelina has transitioned from an OPS to a full-time Ranger.

Fort Foster has been used as a filming location for a mini-series related to the book A Land Remembered (Florida History).

Fiscal year ends June 30th and the park is floating until the new park budget is set.

Media & Merchandise Updates:

New stickers / decals can be put on water bottles. They are made from boat vinyl – good quality.

Round Table:

Ruth – the dryer's timer is not work properly. Will overheat clothes. Washer is new but the dryer was donated. Storage tent blew over in the last storm. Are we going to replace it? We stored chairs in there and they weren't getting stolen.

Discussion among members present regarding the history of the carport. Consensus is that the area of Cheryl's home must be respected and not used for additional parking.

Next CSO Meeting: 6/17/2026 at 6:30PM. We will focus on Haunted Woods planning.

Sue M. motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:20PM, seconded by Rick C., motion passed.

Minutes recorded by Tricia Demers, Secretary