



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/>

Haunted Woods Meeting

Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2026

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

Board members present: Cary Ann Prevatt and Gary Fields

A quorum was not present.

We will need to wait for a quorum to approve July 16th and August 6th meeting minutes.

New Business:

Cary asked what everyone thought about mailing about 15 Haunted Woods flyers to random residents on Dead River Road. Someone mentioned that the River Palm RV Resort reached out to a CSO member regarding opportunities to volunteer. The development is close to the park and informed residents may want to come to the event in October. Sue found the management office contact information and Cary will reach out to them this week.

We were reminded that the meetings scheduled from this point up to October's Haunted Woods event are necessary to have attendees so that decisions can be made and event planning completed.

Are we at a point that we will just have scare actors – not enough volunteers to completely plan and decide on scare zones and scare trail.

A guest reached out to the park to inquire about using the primitive group camping area on the weekend of the Haunted Woods event. Will we need that area for our volunteers that may want to use it? The area is big enough that it can host a large group interested and any volunteers that may be interested.

The banner is up at the park entrance.

Old Business:

Washer in the village has been repaired.

We were hoping to finalize the increased vendor fees for the Haunted Woods food vendors.

Justin not able to commit to the level that he did last year. He has a lot of other stuff going on this year, but he would like to do a little bit at the event.

A map provided for all attendees has been requested. It will provide a guide of what is going on. We can use the same one from last year and just make a few changes as needed.

Wade has an ROTC contact he will reach out and get them assigned for parking or scare actors – where we need them the most.

Group of acting teams that Cary has had contact with – gave them all the event information and sign-up details, but no response or contact from them yet.

Sue's contact for DJ is not going to work out – we are still in need of a DJ.

For the light towers – Sue asked if we can use the ones from Ybor. We have 2 that we have used in past at Fort Foster, but we need to confirm where they are and the condition. Sue suggests we build our own light towers – they will then be ours to keep, we will know where they are and they won't get stolen or used / broken.

Wade had contact with Lance Smith of the Zephyrhills Rotary Club. He has emailed him all the information needed for signing up with CSO and park membership including meeting details / dates. He let him know that we need a treasurer and to pass it around at the club.

The event insurance can be taken care of closer to the date of the event.

Last year we didn't bring any port o potties over – the restrooms near the trail will be open and over by the Rec Hall we have port o potties and washing station. We will leave them all as is and they can be used for the event. We will put their locations on the map as well.

It was asked if anyone knew if Miranda and Roger would be participating this year. We will reach out to them and check.

Do we know anyone that has a camper and will be working the event? Last year those individuals were given sites in the village for the event dates at no cost – is that still the case? We will need to check with Chris.

Pumpkin Carving Contest – for the campground campers of the park – Cheryl offered for AmeriCorps to do the judging. In the past they would set their carved pumpkin at the front of their site and then they would be judged and prizes given later that evening. We would like to do it that way again. Saturday evening the carved pumpkins will need to be out at your site by 6pm for judging. Winners will be notified between 8:30pm – 9pm. Should have 1st- 3rd place prizes.

Sometime before the event we will need to get everyone together and let them know and understand what is going on both nights. Would like to bring all volunteers together and provide them with the event details and safety.

Cary reminded us that she continues to email lots of contacts with no responses or commitments.

We discussed having Danny post on FB with needs for volunteers, Haunted Woods upcoming meeting dates and event highlights we are excited to share.

Suggestion was made to provide a calendar on the HRSP website and on the Facebook page.

We have 2 groups signed up for the scare zones – we need more.

This Saturday, 8/22 Cary and Wade will be having a Recruiting Event from 4-730pm in the campground, and Gary will be selling firewood from the cart. HRSP merchandise available for purchase, and they will be sharing details of the Haunted Woods.

We need volunteers – spread the word!

September – weekly meetings:

- ✓ **Thursday, 9/3 at 6:30pm**
- ✓ **Wednesday, 9/9 at 6:30pm & monthly CSO meeting**
- ✓ **Thursday, 9/17 at 6:30pm (Green Light Decision)**
- ✓ **Wednesday, 9/23 at 6:30pm**

October – Haunted Woods Meetings and Preparation:

- ✓ **Thursday, 10/1 at 6:30pm**
- ✓ **Wednesday, 10/7 at 6:30pm & monthly CSO meeting**
- ✓ **Thursday, 10/15 – set up and dry run (food will be provided – probably pizza)**

Post-Event Schedule:

Sunday, 10/18 – clean up 9am-2pm (coffee and donuts will be provided)

Meeting called to close by Wade at 7:28pm

Minutes recorded by Tricia Demers, Secretary