

Friends of the STX National Parks group – 4 April 2019, 3PM

Meeting called to order at 3PM by Julie

Attendees:

Rick Starr

Susan Wall

Julie San Martin

Mike Abney

Visiting NPS officials:

Zandy Hillis Starr

Bob Vogel, NPS SE Regional Director (bob_vogel@nps.gov)

Absent:

Sara Dykstra

John Gidley

Bob Vogel:

The USVI and PR parks have reverted to SE Regional

There should be a permanent superintendent in St Croix soon.

Recommended that St Croix connect with VI NPS (St John)

Confirmed that Chris Abbott and Matt Posey at SE Regional are available to help with documents

Led a discussion of possible funding opportunities for Friends, including a \$1 per night donation from hotel guests.

Urged us to celebrate and share our successes

Document discussion:

Work plan (was due in October) – we should draft and work with new superintendent, when we have one

Philanthropic Partnership Agreement (now used instead of Friends Agreement) – John with Chris and Matt at SE Regional

Bylaws – reviewed John's draft. A few changes, mostly in membership (add student level, no cards to be issued). Need to revise Articles of Incorporation; should be coordinated with bylaw adoption.

Membership program discussion - Mike

We need a way to raise funds, renew membership and get new members

Include more membership levels - student, senior

Process payments in PayPal

Rick will forward St Croix Foundation philanthropy participation information to Mike

Julie needs to construct and share a spread sheet of our paid up members – collected membership checks from the board members in attendance

Mike will create and "ask" letter – no more than 1 page

Communications - Rick

Rick will decrease involvement. We need a board member (Sara?) to take over the newsletter distribution.

All our documents (except tax return) should be available on the website, including "about us" for the trustees.

Financials - Julie

At the end of March, Friends had \$3,986 in our account, \$3,280 is restricted, \$707 available

Meeting adjourned at 5:10. Minutes submitted by Julie San Martin, President