

Manatee Eco Tourism Association

META
09 March 2017

General Meeting Procedures

In consideration of others, we ask that you follow a few basic rules:

1. Please turn cell phones off, or place on vibrate. If you must make a call, please step outside in order to not interrupt the meeting.
2. If you must speak to someone, please speak softly or go outside in order to not interrupt the meeting.
3. Personal comments/remarks, directed to the Board, Members or the public are not allowed and are considered out of order.

There will be two Public/Member Input opportunities. At the beginning and end of each the meeting. Anyone may speak on the topic of their choosing for up to three minutes.

Meetings

Call to Order: Parliamentarian

Adopt Agenda: Bryan moved, Mike second, Marty

Introduction of Guests/Visitors: Tom Gotterup with Friends of the Refuge

Public / Member Input (3 minutes):

-Mike Milsap collected money on behalf of Crystal River cleanup efforts-discussion to continue of where/when/how to put that resource to use

-Diane suggested that all the dive/tour shops pull together to put a lawyer on retainer for any future/current accusations/slander/libel; Dive Training Magazine, PEER

-Discussed where we were at on becoming a 501(c) organization

-Mike E discussed issues with rental activities. 40% of accusations/issues are from rentals. Roger Smith has been ticketing mainly rental boats. Proposed the idea of a Rent-a-boat or Rent-a-captain option to visitors of the bay

Old Business:

-Website URL ideas, website details: crystalrivermanateeETA

Committee Reports:

1. **Finance:** Marty Senetra-\$799.97 plus \$100.00 check to deposit
2. **Legal:** Mike Engiles-Hunter Springs area, residents trying to make the city make tour operators use spuds or power poles
3. **Science:** None
4. **Membership:** Marty Senetra
5. **Public Relations:** Mike Engiles

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New Business:

- City website, first page has map of where all eel grass cages are
- Mike E-Joyce Palmer very pleased with tour operators; however, there is an issue in funding. With employees being scarce they may not have an official body to open and close 3SS, has to be someone in uniform. This could help the EA decision to close 3SS for 60-90 days during season. Talks of possible canal to the boardwalk so that visitors on tours can still see 3SS. More to come
- Friends of the Refuge has their meetings every third Monday at the conference center. All are welcome to come.
- Talks of submerged mooring balls to limit the number of boats at Jurassic and Hunter Springs; Idea of putting a floating dock near King Spring to tie up on; Suggestion to utilize eco students to come up with solutions to the eel grass/destruction of bottom problems

Fundraiser: Ideas to raise money for META

- calendar, been tried before and did not generate much income
- donation by tour visitors to help the bay
- recycled product (frame, bracelet) to give to visitors for donations
- META adopt a manatee program, packet of our local manatees
- Add 2% person/tour to give back to META
 - Email to all shops of 2% motion, Mike Milsap, Bryan second, Mike E
- Idea of a button on website to donate to META
- Buddy Powell of Sea to Shore Alliance to give a seminar at our May 11 meetings
- Suggestion by Tom, President of Friends of the Refuge to collect \$1 per person that goes directly to META. Accounting to be kept separate and not counted as income, but goes to a specific account that is transferred to META every week

Meeting Adjourned