

The Annual Meeting of the Pear Association was held in the Pear Park Administration/Nature Center on December 14, 2020. President Gary Salzman called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm with the pledge of allegiance to the American flag. Present for today's meeting were President Gary Salzman, Vice-President Eugene Bouley, Treasurer Robert Putman, Secretary George Wolf, and Peg Urban. Representing Lake County Parks and Trails were Justin Elkins and Justin Pouliot.

The minutes of the November 16, 2020 meeting, having been sent to all officers was approved as published. Hal motioned this approval and Gene seconded the motion, which carried.

Bob Putman presented the Treasurer's Report indicating a balance of \$2265.62 as of today. This balance concurs with the recent bank statement for our checking account. The report was accepted.

Parks and Trails Justin Pouliot reported work completed on the 'front 50' berm and plants transplanted.

Gary read correspondence received from Linda Ballard.

### **Committee Reports**

Membership – George reported our current membership totals 80. Renewals for the 2021 calendar year are coming in and membership cards for 2021 have been sent.

Grape Arbor – Parks and Trails will be trimming later in December or January.

Meadows and Wildflowers – the county continues to control the invasive plants particularly in this special section of Pear Park.

Nature Center - Covid 19 has resulted in cancelled events at the Nature Center this year. Gene is hoping to hold programs in the coming year.

Trails – Gene anticipates a First Day Hike on January 1<sup>st</sup>. This is an activity of the Highlander's group.

Pear Pearls – Our only issue in 2020 was distributed in early October. Discussion of having only one issue instead of two was voiced – actual decision to be made later in 2021.

Mowing – Hal reports that the sections of particular importance to our Association are now at rest for the winter season. This effort will begin again in the Spring. Mention was made of the clearing of the experimental fields. This research conducted by Lake County and the state continues.

Bluebird Trail – This amenity began under Bob Putman's guidance. It is continuing under Lake's Parks and Trails. Thirty-five new bird boxes have been placed in addition to the existing 30 older boxes. They will be monitored to ascertain activity. This is an effort to support the presence of native Florida Blue Birds, a unique species we all appreciate.

Community Gardens – Gary reports 12 raised boxes are in good condition. The area can support additional boxes, however, the county faces budget restrictions. This may wait for a while.

Heritage Grove – Peg reports 7 trees added. They are being watered regularly. Gary would like a list of those who are honored with trees.

Volunteers – Peg's report: Despite the pandemic, we managed to keep our volunteer work up on Tuesday mornings, maintaining the Demonstration Gardens and Heritage Grove. Our numbers were down and, unfortunately, one of our long-time dedicated volunteers passed away in the Spring. Tony Grigg and his wife, Barb have been with us since the beginning and it was a great loss for our team. Barb is now in assisted living.

Demonstration Gardens - Peg's Report: The gardens did very well this past year and have filled in nicely. It's been a battle to stay ahead of the weeds with fewer volunteers and much rain; a battle we didn't always win. Periodic help from Parks and Trails staff was appreciated; Justin Pouliot especially. All in all, the gardens look great and we hope that they continue to be a source of enjoyment and education for future visitors.

Historian – Bob Putman concludes his tour as our historian today. He has updated the files and they are current. Hopefully, another history type person will step forward in the new year.

Florida Trails Highlanders Chapter – While this organization is not a specific committee of Pear Association, we are privileged to have Gene Bouley working with us as well as the Highlanders group. A section of the Heritage Grove is reserved for memorialization of Highlanders members. Gene has recently placed 35 bales of pine mulch in this area. It is looking fine.

**Old Business**

A donation to the Lake Beautyberry Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society in memory of Tony Grigg has been sent and acknowledged.

Our website will be updated by Ron Sanok to indicate our newly elected officers.

**New Business**

Bob presented a proposed budget for 2021. Anticipated income was shown at \$680 and expenses projected to be \$2940, creating a deficit of \$2260. With our present funds on hand, we hope to break even. After discussion, Peg motioned to approve this budget and Bob seconded this motion. The vote was unanimous approval.

As this is the final report of our Treasurer, a motion by Gene Bouley to update signature requirements for our account at United Southern Bank was made; adding George Wolf as an approved signer and deleting Robert Putman and Margaret Lindsay as signers. Bob seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Director Election for 2021 was conducted. Gene Bouley agreed to serve another three-year term and Peg Urban agreed to a three-year term replacing retiring director Bob Putman. Hal motioned and Bob seconded closing the nominations. George motioned to elect this slate and Hal seconded the motion. The call approving this motion was unanimous.

President Salzman next placed on the table the matter of the future of Pear Association. Each person present has reviewed the opinions expressed in shared emails of other interested parties. After discussion and consideration of the Lake County Parks and Trails assuming the mowing tasks when we are no longer in a position to do this, we determined to look at this in mid-year 2021 or later. No decision was made at today's meeting.

Gary presented the 2021 meeting dates. They were accepted with the following dates: March 15, June 21, September 20, November 15 and December 13.

Arbor Day falls on January 16 in 2021. Free trees are available. We chose not to obtain any of these this coming year.

There being no other business, Hal motioned adjournment and Bob seconded the motion. Adjournment at 2:53 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,    George Wolf    Secretary

**Pear Association, Inc      Reorganization Meeting      December 14, 2020**

The Reorganization Meeting of Pear Association, Inc was called to order by President Gary Salzman at 2:54 PM following the Annual Meeting. Election of officers for 2021 was made: Gary Salzman, President/Treasurer; Gene Bouley, Vice-President; George Wolf, Secretary. Motion to approve this slate was made by Director Hal Urban and seconded by Peg Urban. This motion carried unanimously.

Gary reappointed all committee chairpersons for the 2021 year.

Motion to adjourn by Gene, seconded by Hal carried. Meeting was adjourned at 2:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted, George Wolf    Secretary

The treasury records and files were turned over by Bob Putman to Gary Salzman following today's meeting. Arrangements for signatures on our corporation bank account will be made.

March 15, 2021 The minute of the annual meeting and reorganization meeting of December 15, 2020 were approved.    George Wolf, Secretary