

MINUTES
ANNUAL MEETING of the PEAR ASSOCIATION
December 12, 2016

President Gary Salzman called the meeting to order at 2:01 pm with the salute to the American Flag. Present for today's meeting were Directors Robert Putman, Gary Salzman, Hal Urban and George Wolf. Also members, Jean Morse, Mary Remer, Tori Salzman and Peg Urban. Justin Pouliot and Ron Musgrave attended representing the Lake Parks and Trails Division.

Minutes of the November 21, 2016 Quarterly meeting were approved on motion by Hal, seconded by Jean.

The Treasurer's report was submitted by Robert with a current balance of \$4,353.00.

Parks and Trails reports that replacement signage on the trails has been completed. We were also shown additional signage for the Butterfly Garden area and on the southern perimeter of the park to discourage area residents from placing yard cuttings on county property. Attention was called to the Bobwhite Quail now on display enclosed in a bell jar – a significant addition to our Nature Center. Work on the grape arbor is progressing. Parks and Trails will relocate the Rock and Mineral display after consultation with Gene Bouley.

Gary invited everyone to stay following the meeting for light refreshments.

Committee Reports

George reported our membership for 2016 totals 115. A new member was added at today's meeting.

County personnel will appreciate Pear Association volunteer help with weeding the grape arbor when it is relocated.

Parks and Trails is working to discourage non-native grasses particularly in the Meadows area.

Gene Bouley has provided a schedule of events in 2017 at the Nature Center. Gene will have presentations at our Open House days with topics such as Identifying Minerals, Identifying Rocks, Fossils and Formation of Landforms (such as mountains etc.) These need publicity to attract area kids and their parents.

George reported two issues of our newsletter; Pear Pearls were made with mailings to 112 addresses for each edition and distribution to area communities.

Hal reported his mowing is complete for this year. The mowing season runs from April through October with weekly passes.

Robert reported 66 fledged Bluebirds from our Bluebird Trail. This is down from 100 in 2015. Robert attributes this to our extreme weather conditions this year.

Gary reported on the Community Gardens. We have 76 plots with 11 available at present. Twelve plots have been discontinued, as this area will be used for the grape arbor. We realize income from this endeavor that nearly matches our membership income. The garden plots make it possible for retirees from the area to

enjoy growing their own vegetables – an amenity not available in most of their communities.

Gary reports the Heritage Grove continues to attract area residents who wish to honor their family and friends. Our Association handles maintenance and care of the trees in this section. The Highlanders Chapter of Florida Trails is developing an area adjacent to our Heritage Grove that will add to the attractiveness of this section of PEAR Park when complete.

Peg reported on the weekly Volunteer team. A couple of the regulars have been lost due to death and returning to the north country permanently, however, a couple of new persons are active at present. The average number of workers each week is nine.

Peg reported on our Demonstration Gardens. New Florida native plant species are added as they are donated. The Butterfly area with the gazebo has new signage, which adds to the educational value for those who visit. Peg mentioned this area is the nesting place for a coachwhip snake. This is a harmless snake, so removal is not required.

Old Business

The Florida Trails Memorial is in process.

A special Pear Association project will be considered at a future time.

New Business

Peg presented an opportunity for purchase of a plant brochure featuring Florida Native plants. The cost can be shared with the Florida Friendly Landscaping Club at Hawthorne. Motion to authorize \$75 toward this purchase by Hal, seconded by Jean. Motion carried.

Robert presented the budget for 2017. Income from all sources is estimated at \$4,350 and expenses are estimated at \$5,600 resulting in an anticipated deficit of \$1,250. A copy of this budget is attached to the minutes. Hal motioned to adopt the budget. Jean seconded. The motion carried.

The Nominating Committee reported that Hal and George have agreed to serve as Directors for another 3 years. No other nominees were presented. Bob motioned to close the nominations and Jean seconded. This motion carried.

Meeting dates for the year 2017 were set for March 20, June 19, November 20 and December 11.

Gary gave special greetings to Mary Remer as she is here in the Sunshine State for a few months and welcomed her to our meeting.

Robert reported he has provided gps coordinates for many Bluebird houses at Pear Park to the Parks and Trails personnel. They will establish the coordinates for those birdhouses Robert was unable to access.

Tori called to our attention the need to find more volunteers for our organization. It is particularly important during the summer months, when the snowbirds are not available.

A reminder – our Annual Plant Sale will be held on April 8, 2017.

Hal motioned for adjournment and Jean seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted, George Wolf Secretary

The Annual reorganization meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order by Gary Salzman at 2:49 pm. Gary read the minutes of the December 17, 2015 Annual Meeting. Hal motioned for approval and Robert seconded. The motion carried.

Hal motioned to continue our current officers in the coming year. Robert seconded and the motion carried.

Gary appointed all committee chairs to continue for 2017.

Hal motioned to adjourn the meeting. Robert seconded. The reorganization meeting was adjourned at 2:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted, George Wolf Secretary