

FFINS Meeting Minutes  
September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015 6:00 pm

Attendees: Dr. David Hensen, Don Hester, Sarah Schaefer, Anita Stern, Renee Kantro, Mohnisch Singh, Kaetlyn Jackson, Marvin O'Neal, Kim Reynolds

Introductions

Treasurers Report (June 20, 2015- present) - Anita Stern

Don Hester gave Anita receipts for International Student Day Food.

**Discussion of 2015 SBU International student field trip (Saturday, Sept 17<sup>th</sup>)**

What we did right:

- 77 students went over and learned about local natural resources
- Learned about our NPS
- Social networking
- Had a good time- Yu-wan had a memorable trip
- Trail flags were great markers to Don Hester's house
- Ranger guided tours and seining activities were good
- Sailor's Haven lifeguards were present and welcome
- Saved approx. \$1200 by not providing box lunches
- Bliss and Wisdom provided delicious dumplings (~800)
- Weather was great (missed rain storm by less than an hour)

What we can improve:

- Estimating or controlling the number of participants- get a good count on participants before day of the trip, track attendees better.
  - Group of attendees boarded the ferry after the official group count-FFINS paid Sayville ferry service for a group of 77; last minute additions were not counted and an estimate was made to pay Sayville ferry service for the additional people in our group after the trip concluded.

Suggested solution:

- Roster on the bus from SBU to the ferry to count participants.
- Limit trip to 100 students, cut down on problems with group estimation and food waste.
- Wrist bands
- Getting the right amount of food.
  - Don Hester provided: Hot dog sliders, 6 gallons of fruit salad, lemonade, and pork tenderloin. Don prepared for ~200 visitors (pre-trip estimate), but had way less visitors. Had too much extra food left over and had to throw away perishables.
  - Bliss and Wisdom made dumplings and rice rolls.
  - Too much food

Suggested solution:

- Create a “Food Detail Committee” within FFINS for the event- plan food specifics.
- Stick to 100 students so we know how much food to get without wasting.
- Transportation- buses
  - Yu-wan got 2 buses and dropped off 2 buses of students at 2 different times. 2 early buses dropped off at the 9:30 sailors haven ferry and 2 later buses dropped off at the 10:30 cherry grove ferry. Cut down on the amount of buses needed.
  - Caused confusion about who was participating and the final count.

Suggested solutions:

- Use 2 bus system again with 2 different arrival times. Keep better track of amount of students in group.
- Flow of money
  - \$ was paid directly from SBU students to buses this year.
  - Many people did not show up, but we still prepared food, transportation, etc. for them.

Suggested solutions:

- \$ should be given to FFINS first and then distributed to transportation and food.
- Students make \$30 check out to FFINS for trip. \$10 is returned to students if they attend the trip (hand \$10 and wristband). If student does not attend money can still be used to cover cost of food and transportation and \$ left over can be used as a donation to FFINS.
- Financial Aspects
  - No major sponsors

Suggested solutions:

- Support from local businesses
- Finalize FFINS info package to send out to local banks
- Target banks at SBU and SJC campus- Island Federal Credit Union
- Plan trip a year in advance to get sponsors on a solid event date
- Rain date
  - No rain date

Suggested solutions:

- Target September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016 and rain date September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**Christmas Boat Parade- Sunday November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2015- Watch Hill Ferry Terminal**

- Raise prices on food items
- Advertise food by walking through crowds watching parade
- Raffle suggested- prizes from local business donations (gift card/ merchandise)- legality of raffle on NPS property needs to be checked.

- SJC volunteers
- \$ raised will be ear marked to fund a SJC College Day in Spring 2016 (Mohnisch will get approval from SJC staff and give an update)

### **Membership**

- Anita targeted people on the email list, fire departments, ambulance companies, but not much response.
- Planning to try mailings.

### **FFINS Student Chapters**

- SJC
  - Mohnisch wants to get Biology Club involved.
  - Make a Difference Day- community service day. Irene wanted volunteers for a gardening project at Watch Hill.
  - Trivia Slide Show- NPS reps can provide questions
  - Requested NPS rep (Kaetlyn or Kim volunteered) come to SJC for a few days in early October for 15-20 minute presentations.
  - Suggested involvement in Citizen Science- horseshoe crab counts- (SBU students can be involved too).
- SBU
  - Club dissolved.
  - Emily has not handed off paper work so we cannot replace her yet as president. Wait a few months to try taking club over.
  - Marvin O'Neal will follow up.

### **FINS Lecture Series**

- Positives and negatives can be improved.
- Suggested next year 7pm start
- Hispanic community involvement- Kaetlyn reached out to David Kennedy
- Sunday afternoon lecture time suggested
- Native grasses topic suggested by Don Hester- interest on Fire Island

### **Other news:**

New manager to Assistant Superintendent- NPS plans to have an introduction to FFINS in December or January FFINS meeting. Present parks and partnerships presentations- can be useful to FFINS.