**Friends of Maclay Gardens - Annual Meeting**

**Minutes**

**Gardener’s Cottage, January 24, 2018 – 6:30 PM**

After a 45 minute social time, the Annual Meeting was called to order by Gary Griffin, the 2017 Board President.

Gary welcomed the 20 or so members of the FOMG and announced that notice of the meeting had been given in accordance with the By Laws of the FOMG.

Gary thanked Cheryl and Gary Gratt and MaryJayne Lunsford for their providing the food and drink for the evening’s attendees.

Gary recognized out-going Board member Fred Calder (who was present) and thanked him for his many years of dedicated service to the Friends, particularly his leadership as the Chair of the 2016-2017 Moon Over Maclay.

Gary introduced the proposed slate of new members of the Board who have been chosen to serve 3-year terms:

* Mark Alexander, Martha Cunningham, Steve Chandler (present) and Diane Allewelt (absent); all 4 of them come with a wealth of knowledge and skills and a desire to serve Maclay Gardens State Park.
* A Motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved for the proposed new member slate.

Gary presented the slate of Board Officers for 2018:

* Gary Griffin (President), Marnie George (Vice President), Carla DeLoach (Secretary) and Jana Walling (Treasurer)
* A Motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved for the proposed new Officer slate.

Gary presented an overview of the 2017 accomplishments of the 2017 Friends of Maclay Gardens and how they complimented and sought to achieve the 3-fold “Purpose” of the Friends of Maclay Gardens as stated in the By-Laws:

1. Help meet the financial needs of the park through fund-raising efforts

2017 Primary Financially-related Accomplishments

* Tour of Gardens ($17K) and Moon Over Maclay ($16K) netted over $33,000, believed to be the largest ever in the history of the (2) signature FOMG fundraisers.
* He gave to following examples of financial assistance to the Park for 2017:

$6500 expended for the removal of invasive species in the “Azalea Hillside”

$2000 expended for seasonal plantings at the Park entrances and in the Garden

Partnered with Gulf Winds Track Club, the Gulf Winds Tri Club, and the Tallahassee Mountain Bike Assn. replacing a water fountain on the Lake Overstreet Loop

1. Provide volunteers to assist in the Staff in meeting the needs of the Park

* Board worked to build up the volunteer base by working by promoting FOMG membership (only 58 members as of this date) through a more active presence in Park and city-wide events, as well as increasing the presence of the FOMG in social media, local advertising and via membership promotion

1. Helping to promote the best interests of Maclay Gardens through a variety of outreach efforts.

* Again, the Board sought to increase Park visitation through the same efforts mentioned in regards to the building up of the volunteer and membership bases.

2018 Goals

* Gary reminded those present of the May 19, 2018 Tour of Gardens and the October 21 Moon Over Maclay and invited FOMG members to work alongside the Board in the presentation of these events.
* In addition, an April 2018 Italian Dinner (open to the public) is in the planning stage in an attempt to increase FOMG membership and the volunteer base.
* He spoke briefly of the primary Park projects that are planned, namely (1) the upgrade and repairs of the Garden irrigation system that in addition to being highly inefficient has frequent failings that demand an abundance of Staff hours, (2) the replacement of the manually-operated Maclay Road Park entrance gate with an electronically-operated gate, (3) the completion of the conveyance of the Maclay Road 1 (MOL) acre lot presently owned by the FOMG to the State, and (4) continued support for basic Park needs such as plants, equipment replacement and repair and other emergency needs.

The Annual Meeting was concluded at 7:45.

Gary Griffin, President and Acting Secretary