

1. Requested Motion:

Meeting Date: April 15, 2013

Motion to approve Matanzas Pass Preserve request for \$25,000 in funding to support its Education and Resource Station Project.

Why the action is necessary:

Action is required to provide a council response to the request as only Council has the authority to approve or deny such requests.

What the action accomplishes:

2. Agenda:

Consent
 Administrative

3. Requirement/Purpose:

Resolution
 Ordinance
 Other

4. Submitter of Information:

Council
 Town Staff
 Town Attorney

5. Background:

All funding requests from outside organizations or persons must be acted upon by Town Council. The Town Manager has reviewed the application and acknowledges the organization has completed the required submittal of all information.

6. Alternative Action:

Deny request.

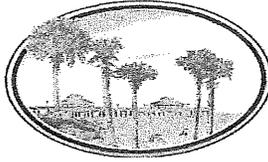
7. Management Recommendations: This item is a policy matter for Council consideration and action. Staff only reports that the applicant has provided all information as required to move this item to an agenda for consideration.

8. Recommended Approval:

Town Manager	Town Attorney	Finance Director	Public Works Director	Community Development Director	Parks & Recreation Director	Town Clerk
						

9. Council Action:

Approved Denied Deferred Other



MAR 20 2013

RECEIVED BY

The Town of Fort Myers Beach has established guidelines (Council meeting of 9/17/12) for any organization wishing to request funding assistance from the town for a program, project or event. This form will assist the applicant in answering those requirements.

1. Name of your organization: FRIENDS OF THE MATANZAS PRESERVE, INC.
(All applicant organizations must be authorized 501(c)(3) organizations. Please provide a separate notarized statement from an authorized organization officer attesting to this.)
2. What is the title of the program, project or event for which you are requesting funding?
MATANZAS PASS PRESERVE EDUCATION AND RESOURCE STATION PROJECT
3. On a separate document, please provide a detailed explanation of your program, project or event.
ATTACHED
4. Has your organization received either TDC or State of Florida funding for this program, project or event?
Yes ___ No If yes, please provide specific information. Submit separate documents if necessary.

5. Contributions by the organization or its members will be an important consideration for the town in reaching a decision. Are there such contributions? Yes No ___ . If yes, provide specific information.
SEE ATTACHMENT

6. Provide information about your organization's recent record of accomplishments with any programs, projects or events. (2 years if available). Submit separate documents if necessary.
SEE ATTACHMENT

7. If funded, the receiving organization agrees to list the Town as a sponsor. Said sponsorship must be included on all advertisements for the program, project or event. Signature of this form below acknowledges and accepts this requirement.
8. Financial statements covering this program, project or event will be subject to review by the Town. Signature of this form below acknowledges and accepts this requirement.
9. The applicant organization will be required to give a detailed presentation and answer any questions at a council meeting.
10. List the amount of your total funding request. \$ 25,000.00

Signature of Authorized Organization Officer

3/20/2013
Date Application Submitted

Application for Program, Project or Event Financial Support from the Town of Fort Myers Beach



Friends of the Matanzas Preserve, Inc.
P.O. Box 6561
Fort Myers Beach, Florida 33931
A 501(c) 3 Tax Exempt Organization



March 20, 2013

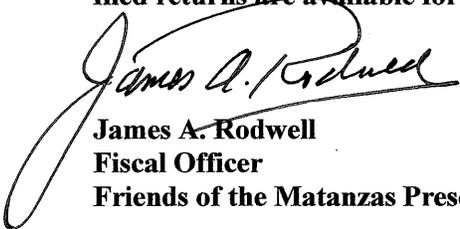
Town of Fort Myers Beach
2523 Estero Blvd.
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931
Attn: Town Manager

Re: Attest to Section 501(c)3 Status

Sir

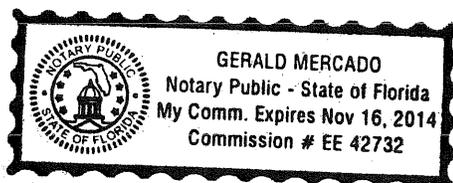
I attest that Friends of the Matanzas Preserve, Inc., is a Section 501(c)3 organization. Attached is IRS letter dated May 29, 2012, that recognizes the Friends as exempt under Section 501(c)3 in a determination letter issued in June 2008.

The Friends have filed federal tax return Form 990-EZ every year since 2008. Copies of filed returns are available for inspection.


James A. Rodwell
Fiscal Officer
Friends of the Matanzas Preserve, Inc.

State of FLORIDA County of LEE
Subscribed and sworn before me on 03/20/13
(Date)


(Notary Signature)





IRS Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

P.O. Box 35045
Jacksonville FL 32202-0000

In reply refer to: 0752639087
May 29, 2012 LTR 4168C E0
65-0708636 000000 00

00038588
BODC: TE

FRIENDS OF THE MANTANZAS PRESERVE
INC
% THOMAS F MYERS PRES
190 TROPICAL SHORE WAY
FT MYERS BCH FL 33931-3316



010366

Employer Identification Number: 65-0708636
Person to Contact: Mr Lockley
Toll Free Telephone Number: 1-877-829-5500

Dear Taxpayer:

This is in response to your May 17, 2012, request for information regarding your tax-exempt status.

Our records indicate that you were recognized as exempt under section 501(c)(03) of the Internal Revenue Code in a determination letter issued in JUNE 2008.

Our records also indicate that you are not a private foundation within the meaning of section 509(a) of the Code because you are described in section(s) 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi).

Donors may deduct contributions to you as provided in section 170 of the Code. Bequests, legacies, devises, transfers, or gifts to you or for your use are deductible for Federal estate and gift tax purposes if they meet the applicable provisions of sections 2055, 2106, and 2522 of the Code.

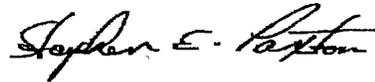
Please refer to our website www.irs.gov/eo for information regarding filing requirements. Specifically, section 6033(j) of the Code provides that failure to file an annual information return for three consecutive years results in revocation of tax-exempt status as of the filing due date of the third return for organizations required to file. We will publish a list of organizations whose tax-exempt status was revoked under section 6033(j) of the Code on our website beginning in early 2011.

0752639087
May 29, 2012 LTR 4168C E0
65-0708636 000000 00
00038589

FRIENDS OF THE MANTANZAS PRESERVE
INC
% THOMAS F MYERS PRES
190 TROPICAL SHORE WAY
FT MYERS BCH FL 33931-3316

If you have any questions, please call us at the telephone number shown in the heading of this letter.

Sincerely yours,



Stephen E. Paxton
Operations Manager, AM Operations 3

Friends of the Matanzas Preserve, Inc.
Question #3: Explanation of Capital Project

Traditionally, the Friends' sole mission has been to engage in land stewardship activities in the Preserve. Bimonthly workdays find volunteers working to remove exotic vegetation, plant native species and maintain trails. Although the land stewardship mission continues to be an important function of the organization, a movement has begun towards offering public service programs. These programs will directly benefit visitors and residents of the Town of Fort Myers Beach.

The first public service program began six years ago when the Friends held their first native plant sale on the Beach. This sale permitted the Friends to reach out to the community regarding the importance of planting native plants suited to a barrier island. Shortly thereafter, the Friends took on the responsibility of creating and implementing guided walks. The very first ethnobotany interpretive guided walk program in Lee County was developed and implemented by the Friends.

The Friends have also been involved in the creation of additional programs such as: Visions of the Past, Trails Day public events and the Earth Education program for elementary school children.

It is the goal of the organization to expand its Earth Education program and perhaps add a Junior Ranger program. Adding adult education programs is also envisioned as well as a weekly environmental lecture series during season that mirrors the program of the Friends of Barefoot Beach. Various programs and events that are offered at Six Mile Cypress Slough, Manatee Park, Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed, among others are being considered for adoption at the Preserve.

Current and projected programs fall under the following general categories:

- a. Children's ecology education;
- b. Adult ecology education;
- c. Recreational events in the Preserve;
- d. Ecological awareness by providing instructional material to Preserve visitors;
- e. Eco-tourism support;
- f. Florida Gulf Coast University colloquium classes and service hours; and
- g. Florida Gulf Coast University research projects

To achieve our goals, the Friends are seeking to acquire a facility that will enable the Friends to establish a presence at the Preserve. The purpose of the project is to build a facility that will provide a public restroom, space for resource displays, storage and a multipurpose class room. Such a facility will provide an infrastructure, resources and material support for the present and envisioned public service programs as briefly described above for Matanzas Pass Preserve.

The project includes acquisition of a 36' x 11' modular building that will be placed on a raised deck with a covered porch. Access to the building will include an ADA compliant ramp.

The Preserve is an asset to the town of Fort Myers Beach by not only providing storm protection with the mangrove fringe but providing a place for storm water wash overs and helping to keep property values stable in its surrounding neighborhood. All natural areas contribute to property values, but it is also an added dimension to a true barrier island experience and visit. Visitors and residents learn the value of beaches and mangrove forest, and this experience is not available in all beach communities. Educational programs, guided walks and fun events in the preserve provide a layer of understanding of our barrier island ecosystem that visitors and residents can take with them when they visit other tropical barrier islands. Understanding our natural systems is a goal of ecotourism as well as having fun in a beautiful natural area. This benefits all who visit from near and far, to love the areas they visit and take this ownership with them to provide the best environment for their homes and neighborhoods.

Friends of the Matanzas Preserve, Inc.

Question #5: Contributions by the Organization

- At the March meeting of the board of directors of the Friends of the Matanzas Preserve, Inc., the board approved a two year Capital Campaign to fund the construction of a facility at the Preserve. The Capital Campaign Plan has a goal to raise \$70,000 over a two year period. Each board member then pledged to make personal financial commitment to the Campaign.
- The board of directors designated funds in the amount of \$10,000 to the Capital Project in 2012.
- It is anticipated that the board will designate an additional \$10,000 from fund raising activities in 2013.
- An additional \$15,000 in funding is anticipated in pledges from regular and life members, businesses, grants, and other individuals.

Friends of the Matanzas Preserve, Inc.

Question #6: Record of Accomplishments

- Friends' have logged close to 2,000 volunteer hours in service to the Preserve per Lee County records.
- Volunteers take part in land stewardship activities in the Preserve every two weeks year around.
- Interpretative guided walks for visitors to the Preserve are conducted by volunteers every week during the five month winter season.
- The first ethnobotany interpretative program in Lee County was developed and implemented by the Friends.
- Specialized guided walks for Florida Master Naturalist classes.
- 347 Lee County third graders participated in the Earth Education Home Sweet Home project that was implemented by the volunteers. The first time this program was conducted by a park or preserve in Lee County.
- Establishment of a seeding station in the Preserve for the purpose of promoting the growth and preserving the genetic codes of endangered species. This is the very first seeding station devoted to preserving native species in all of the Lee Counties Parks and Preserves.
- Organized and participated in events in the Preserve such as Visions of the Past and Trail Days.
- Conducted plant sales of native plants on the Beach for the past six years.
- Developed and implemented a fully operational website.
- Opened the first smart trail in a Lee County Preserve using QR codes linked to videos on YouTube.

- Ongoing program to revise a 30 year old plant list. To date over 125 species have been identified and photographed in the Preserve.

Friends of the Matanzas Preserve, Inc.
Statement of Uses and Sources of Funds
Facility Capital Project

Uses of Funds

Estimated Building Costs

Site plan and survey	\$	4,700
Modular unit 36' x 11' with shipping and permitting		30,000
Interior finish and furnishings		10,000
Utility hookup		5,000
Materials		
Footings	\$	900
Deck and stairway		4,400
ADA ramp		2,200
Pergola roof and support post		1,000
Total materials		<u>8,500</u>
Labor (120 hours x \$45)		<u>5,400</u>
		63,600
12% Contracting fee on materials and labor		1,620
10% contingency fee		6,400
Total uses of funds	\$	<u><u>70,000</u></u>

Sources of Funds

Individual pledges from Friends board members	\$	10,000
Friends net assets designated from 2012 fund raising		10,000
Friends net assets designated from 2013 fund raising		10,000
Pledges from Friends life and regular members, businesses and other individuals		5,000
Grant requests		<u>35,000</u>
Total sources of funds	\$	<u><u>70,000</u></u>