

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
Reports/Presentations
Item 6a

Friends of PTNE

Objective: To provide information regarding establishing a Public Transit Friends organization.

Considerations:

In an effort to obtain alternative revenue sources to fund critical transit operations, PTNE staff researched the possibility of establishing a Public Transit Friends Organization. Staff found that Collier County has established friends organizations for the Library, Museum, Domestic Animal Services, Parks and Recreation, and University Extension Divisions. In order to establish a friends organization, they must be a recognized 501 c 3 corporation. The groups operate separate from Divisions, yet they are recognized by the Board of County Commissioners through resolution 2001-255 and are registered with the State of Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to fundraise.

Friends groups are required to sponsor and/or conduct, with prior approval of the Public Services Department Head, events, programs, services, and association business and fundraising activities on County property, using County assets as approved. Examples of events, programs, and services include but not limited to the following:

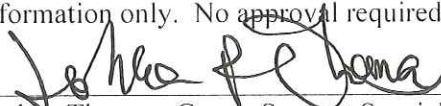
- Old Florida Festival
- Festival of the Humanities
- Roberts Ranch Roundup
- Library Surplus Book Sale Program
- Gift Shop Operations and Concessions
- Lecture Series and Exhibits
- Community Park Yard Sale Program

Earned revenue from the Friends Groups is used exclusively to support companion department facilities, programs, services, operations, and employees.

Should Friends of Transit organization be established, it would provide assistance to PTNE for those expenditures that are unfunded by grants or other means such as, minor equipment replacement, minor building improvements, volunteer appreciation events, etc. Similar to the other friends groups, the PTNE Division would submit a program/equipment request to the Friends organization and it would be the group's prerogative whether to fund the request. All funding would be used to benefit Collier County Public Transit and any funding request granted by Friends would be recognized by the Board of County Commissioners as a donation.

Recommendation:

This item is for information only. No approval required

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Date: 02-16-17

Approved by: 
for Michelle Arnold, PTNE Division Director

Date: 2/16/17