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Friends of Collier Parks and Recreation is a 501(c)(3) organization committed to increase public awareness of the recreational opportunities within Collier Township. This increased awareness is accomplished by promoting and improving the many Parks and Trails of Collier Township. "Friends" is passionately involved in this goal and has various fundraisers throughout 2021 such as basket sales at Collier Fest, a Pasta Dinner, Mums flower sale, 50/50 sales and others to improve our Parks and Trails. Investing in our parks and trails not only makes them more vibrant and welcoming, it also attracts quality development, increases property value, enhances Collier's image and livability.

Over the years, "Friends" has made great strides throughout Collier Township such as replacing the worn-out brick pavers at the Veterans Memorial Monument with new long lasting granite pathway commemorative pavers, providing funds for the Discovery Trail/Meadow Path, Molly's Dog Park, Purple Martin bird houses, Memorial Benches, a new Electronic Sign at the Community Center, planting trees and wildflowers along the Discovery Trail/Meadow Path.

I would be remiss not to point out that these accomplishments could not have been achieved by "Friends" without the help of current and past members such as Mary Ann Cupples Wisniowski, Gail Neustadt, Kathy Rulong, Barb Riedl, Lynn Heckman, Pam Handlovitch, Tildon Bennett, Mike Fantona, Elizabeth Quinn, Vivonic Yablonsky, Karyn Brookes, Bill Wenger, Peggy Mollica and Rose Gantner.

Although many projects and improvements have been completed, there remains considerably more work to be accomplished. The current "Friends" members, Anna Ewing, Susan Linner, Marilyn Townsend, Dave Brown, Sadie Sterner Rostivo, Mary Ann Cupples Wisniowski and Debra Zymroz, are currently raising funds for ongoing projects and improvements such as providing public restrooms along the Panhandle Trail, installing a water station at Molly's Dog Park and restoring the Veterans Memorial Gazebo to its original splendor.

"Friends" is committed to continually maintaining and improving the Parks and Trails of Collier Township. Although commitment is important, none of the past or current projects could have been or will be accomplished without the generous donations from our residents and businesses.

I would like to profoundly thank all who have and those who continue to donate to Friends of Collier Parks and Recreation.

Thank you all and keep donating!!!

*Mary Ann Cupples Wisniowski*

Vice-President, Friends of Collier Parks and Recreation