



**Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
CITIZEN SUPPORT ORGANIZATION  
2022 LEGISLATIVE REPORT  
(pursuant to Section 20.058 Florida Statutes)**

Citizen Support Organization (CSO) Name: Friends of Alafia

Mailing Address: 14326 So. CR 39 Lithia, FL 33537

Telephone Number: 813-672-5320

Website Address (*required if applicable*): [www.friendsofalafia.org](http://www.friendsofalafia.org)

☒ Check to confirm your Code of Ethics is posted conspicuously on your website.

**Statutory Authority:**

**Section 20.2551, F.S., Citizen support organizations; use of property; audit; public records; partnerships.** In summary, the statute specifies the organizational requirements, operational parameters, duties of a CSO to support the Department of Environmental Protection (Department), or individual units of the Department, use of Department property, audit requirements, public records requirements, and authorizes public-private partnerships to enhance lands managed by the Department.

**Section 258.015, F.S., Citizen support organizations; use of property; audit.** In summary, the statute defines a CSO, requires authorization by the Division of Recreation and Parks, and specifies the use of property. This statute authorizes the Partnerships in Parks (PIP) program for state parks, the program's operational parameters, CSO's operational parameters, and donor recognition.

**YOUR MISSION AND LAST CALENDAR YEAR'S PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

**CSO's Mission:** (Consistent with your Articles and Bylaws)

Protecting, preserving, and supporting ARSP in providing resource-based recreational opportunities to the public.

**Describe Last Calendar Year's Results Obtained:** Brag! (List or discuss the past calendar year's accomplishments and contributions. Cite specific support from last calendar year's Annual Program Plan.)

Applied for grant money from new and existing sources to purchase equipment.

Equipment purchases include 2 new mowers.

Contracted with vending service to install drink and snack machine for guest use at trailhead.

Donations and merchandise transactions now available via square reader.

Amended Bylaws to increase BOD positions from 7 to 9.

Voted in new Sec added a Director for ATCommittee who transitions to CSO Pres in spring 2022

**Describe the CSO's Plans for the Next Three Calendar Years:**

Continue spring & fall clean up programs to remove invasive plants, plant trees as advised by management.

Continue to seek funding to purchase equipment and supplies needed to maintain trails.

Strengthen awareness of FOA via web site and social media upgrades.

Hold quarterly Outreach days. Increase number of CSO specific events, if supported by management.

Consider annual fishing clinic. Hold annual membership meeting in combination of volunteer appreciation day

### **CSO's LAST CALENDAR YEAR STATISTICS:**

**Total Number of CSO General Membership:** Corp.9,127 family, 75 ind

**Total Number of Board of Directors:** 9

**Total Volunteer Hours for the Board of Directors** (Hours from VSys - Work with your parks' volunteer manager): 4528

### **PARK & CSO RELATIONSHIP:**

Do not duplicate by describing accomplishments and contributions in the summary (Brag in the above Results Obtained). Below, describes the relationship.

#### **Park Manager's Comments on the CSO & Park Relationship and Support:**

Provide your perspective on

- Changing developments of the park provided by the CSO.
- Effectiveness of the organization in fulfilling their purpose to support the park(s).
- Effectiveness of the Board of Directors in completing their Annual Program Plan.
- The relationship between the park and CSO. What went well? Are there areas of improvement?

Developments of change between CSO and Park consist of new park management along with new board members of the CSO. At this time I do not have enough time working with the CSO to comment on their effectiveness or other aspects.

#### **CSO President's Comments on the CSO & Park Relationship and Support:**

Provide your perspective on the relationship between the park and CSO. What went well? Are there areas of improvement?

2021 was a year of many changes in management and volunteer base.

FOA team members had a lot of confusing advice and direction from DEP and Park, and often no information or guidance on how to continue with pending projects and plans. Park manager and CSO struggled to effectively communicate.

Park Mgr relocated late fall of 2021 leaving all CSO & park plans on hold.

### **SUMMARIZE FINANCIAL ACTIVITY FOR LAST CALENDAR YEAR, DIRECT PARK(S) SUPPORT & REVENUES:**

**Program Service Expenses** are costs related to providing your organization's programs or services in accordance with your mission. Describe and provide expenses that directly support the park(s). For established nonprofit organizations, program service expenses generally represent most of the overall expense of the organization. Provide description and total \$ for each that apply.

Building improvement, construction, or renovations	\$
Cultural resources (e.g., historic structure restoration/ renovation)	\$
Natural resources (e.g., native plants, natural lands restoration)	\$
Maintenance equipment (e.g., mowers, chippers, blowers, chainsaws)	\$ 25939.27
Other facilities and landscape maintenance	\$ 7902.42
Vehicles (e.g., trucks/cars, UTVs, golf carts, accessible devices, etc.)	\$
Amenities (e.g., water fountains, benches, picnic tables, recreational equipment, kiosks etc.)	\$ 615.00
Park employees or volunteers support (e.g., interns, training, uniforms, awards, or recognition)	\$ 895.01
Big ticket visitor center exhibits or interpretation updates	\$

Park exhibits, displays, signage \$  
 Park publications, brochures, maps, etc. \$  
 Programing/interpretation support material purchases \$  
 Other program services \$  
**Total Program Service Expenses \$ 35351.7**

**Visitor Services Revenue**

Describe revenues and the sources generated from fundraising on park property.

Park gift shops, craft stores, and concession sales \$ 4809.78  
 Merchandise sales (e.g., plants, firewood, ice, t-shirts, hats, etc.) \$ 520.57  
 Programs and Special Events (e.g., fundraising workshops, seasonal events, concerts, etc.) \$ 4125.00  
 Vending (e.g., drink machines, penny press, laundry, Wifi, etc.) \$  
 Rentals (e.g., bikes, canoe, kayak, SUPs, etc.) \$  
 In-park donation boxes \$  
 Other visitor services revenue \$  
**Total Visitor Services Revenue \$ 9455.35**

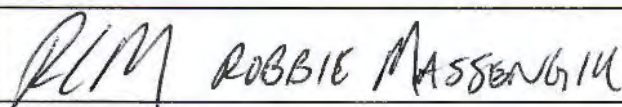
**NET ASSETS: \$ 62084.02**

Organizations end of last year's Total Liabilities minus Total Assets. This is not the above's Visitor Service Revenue minus Program Service Expenses.

**CSO AUDIT THRESHOLD:**

**Last Calendar Year's Total Expenses (including grants) \$ 50650.88**

Are the CSO's annual total expenses \$300,000 including grants? Then Section 215.981(2), Florida Statute requires an independent CPA audit using Government Audit Standards ([U.S. GAO Yellow Book](#)). The audit is **due by September 1** (9 months after the CSO's calendar year ends) to the Florida Auditor General and to the Department.

This information is complete to the best of my knowledge pursuant to Section 20.058 Florida Statutes		
CSO President	 ROBBIE MASSENBURG	6-2-22
Park Manager	<b>Cody Peters</b> Digitally signed by Cody Peters Date: 2022.05.31 15:26:54 -04'00'	5/27/22

☒ **CSO's Code of Ethics is attached**

CSO has attached the most recent Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-N receipt. All IRS Form 990's must be **complete** with Part III Program Service and **all** appropriate Schedules (A, O and others as appropriate). If filing an IRS extension, attach the IRS 8868 receipt and the most recent complete 990 and schedules.

## PREAMBLE

- (1) It is essential to the proper conduct and operation of Friends of Alafia (herein "CSO") that its board members, officers, and employees be independent and impartial and that their position not be used for private gain. Therefore, the Florida Legislature in Section 112.3251, Florida Statute (Fla. Stat.), requires that the law protect against any conflict of interest and establish standards for the conduct of CSO board members, officers, and employees in situations where conflicts may exist.
- (2) It is hereby declared to be the policy of the state that no CSO board member, officer, or employee shall have any interest, financial or otherwise, direct or indirect, or incur any obligation of any nature which is in substantial conflict with the proper discharge of his or her duties for the CSO. To implement this policy and strengthen the faith and confidence of the people in Citizen Support Organizations, there is enacted a code of ethics setting forth standards of conduct required of Friends of Alafia board members, officers, and employees in the performance of their official duties.
- (3) Friends of Alafia is committed to promoting diversity and ensuring equal opportunities are provided for all individuals regardless of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, sex, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, disability, religious beliefs, marital status, protected veteran status, genetic information or any other protected category.

## STANDARDS

The following standards of conduct are enumerated in Chapter 112, Fla. Statutes., and are required by Section 112.3251, to be observed by CSO board members, officers, and employees.

### 1. Prohibition of Solicitation or Acceptance of Gifts

No CSO board member, officer, or employee shall solicit or accept anything of value to the recipient, including a gift, loan, reward, promise of future employment, favor, or service, based upon any understanding that the vote, official action, or judgment of the CSO board member, officer, or employee would be influenced thereby.

### 2. Prohibition of Accepting Compensation Given to Influence a Vote

No CSO board member, officer, or employee shall accept any compensation, payment, or thing of value when the person knows, or, with reasonable care, should know that it was given to influence a vote or other action in which the CSO board member, officer, or employee was expected to participate in his or her official capacity.

### 3. Salary and Expenses

No CSO board member or officer shall be prohibited from voting on a matter affecting his or her salary, expenses, or other compensation as a CSO board member or officer, as provided by law.



#### 4. Prohibition of Misuse of Position

A CSO board member, officer, or employee shall not corruptly use or attempt to use one's official position or any property or resource which may be within one's trust, or perform official duties, to secure a special privilege, benefit, or exemption.

#### 5. Prohibition of Misuse of Privileged Information

No CSO board member, officer, or employee shall disclose or use information not available to members of the general public and gained by reason of one's official position for one's own personal gain or benefit or for the personal gain or benefit of any other person or business entity.

#### 6. Post-Office/Employment Restrictions

A person who has been elected to any CSO board or office or who is employed by a CSO may not personally represent another person or entity for compensation before the governing body of the CSO of which he or she was a board member, officer, or employee for a period of two years after he or she vacates that office or employment position.

#### 7. Prohibition of Employees Holding Office

No person may be, at one time, both a CSO employee and a CSO board member at the same time.

#### 8. Requirements to Abstain From Voting

A CSO board member or officer shall not vote in official capacity upon any measure which would affect his or her special private gain or loss, or which he or she knows would affect the special gain or any principal by whom the board member or officer is retained. When abstaining, the CSO board member or officer, prior to the vote being taken, shall make every reasonable effort to disclose the nature of his or her interest as a public record in a memorandum filed with the person responsible for recording the minutes of the meeting, who shall incorporate the memorandum in the minutes. If it is not possible for the CSO board member or officer to file a memorandum before the vote, the memorandum must be filed with the person responsible for recording the minutes of the meeting no later than 15 days after the vote.

#### 9. Failure to Observe CSO Code of Ethics

Failure of a CSO board member, officer, or employee to observe the Code of Ethics may result in the removal of that person from their position. Further, failure of the CSO to observe the Code of Ethics may result in the Florida Department of Environmental Protection terminating its Agreement with the CSO.



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• **Filing Status:** Pending

**Note:** Print a copy of this filing for your records. Once you leave this page, you will not be able to do so.

**MANAGE FORM 990-N SUBMISSIONS**