

Friends of Seneca Creek State Park

Board Meeting Minutes from February 20, 2013

Call to order at 7:00 pm

Attendees- Steve Hackman, Earl Pfeiffer, Ellen Erdelsky, Dave Powell, Bonnie Bell, Dave Scull, Bruce Goldensohn, and Ken Grundy.

Absent- Dr. Stan Forster

Approved minutes from November 17, 2012 meeting with corrections.

Treasurer's Report - Steve Hackman

See report.

\$816.00 of donations consisted of \$500.00 from the Montgomery County Road Runners, \$100.00 from the Sugarloafers, \$100.00 in extra money from Kim Lloyd's retirement luncheon proceeds, and \$116.00 from lost disc sales and donation boxes. We sent Kim Lloyd a thank you letter.

Park purchases consisted only of \$217.22 in port a potty fees. MORE owes us some money to date, but the Disc Golf group has a \$0.72 credit.

Expenditures consisted of 2 gates, 2 posts, and 20 bags of concrete for a total of \$758.75.

ING was bought by Capital One and our money market account was earning very little so Steve closed that account. Ken asked if there were any thoughts on different investments where we could earn some more interest.

Membership Report- Ellen Erdelsky

See other sheet. We have lost 6 members since the last meeting but that period has the most renewals of the year.

Ellen has produced a letter that will attempt to get some old members to rejoin. Steve asked if we wanted to put our QRC on the letters. Some of the board didn't know what it was nor that we had one. It is a scan-able code that will direct you to our web site. We agreed to put it on our letters.

There was some talk about how Ellen has been backing up our database of members on a 3 1/2 inch disc. She has recently purchased a flash drive and will back it up on there.

Management Report- Dave Powell

Dave is the acting manager at this time and he hasn't heard anything about someone filling the manager position. Bethany Lillard is a new ranger that just started last week. The park is fully staffed except for the manager position. Seneca's last two new rangers have both been women and over 50% of rangers in the park system are women. There are seven other openings at other parks that are still not filled. The park has one intern right now from Frostburg University named Jay Maloney.

The park applied for and was awarded a grant for a Trimble GPS unit and the labor to do boundary recovery. A Trimble unit is highly accurate. The boundary recovery person from Annapolis has already loaded the Patuxent Park information and is working on the boundary recovery there.

Dave has started to work on getting a new map made of the Seneca Park trail system. There are many reroutes and trail color changes that need to be updated from the last map that was printed.

The managed hunt ran smoothly this year and produced 39 deer. Dave believes that there is an approximate 50/50 male to female ratio of deer in the park. It is possible that the park may have less hunters at the managed hunt next year since there are fewer places for the deer to hide at the park.

Dave has had a few interesting challenges come up since Kim has left. The tenant, Buddy that lived at Schaeffer Farm passed away. The 140 acres that he used to lease from the park are being leased by someone else for the time being. Dave is meeting with the people from the Soccerplex to talk about using the site for large events. A huge sycamore tree fell onto the stone mill out near Riley's Lock. It created a large mess and a historian said that it had to be cleaned up ASAP so it wouldn't do any more damage. Dave has hired someone to cut it down, but it is not done yet.

The staff is almost done painting the inside of the office.

They are organizing their Park Quest project for this summer.

Dave stated that the funding study that we have heard about should be on line soon and we will like it.

Kendall Mott fell off of a ladder at home and broke his shoulder blade in 3 places.

The Volunteer Breakfast is scheduled for this coming Saturday at 9:00 am.

Purchase Requests

The park office needs a new 4 line phone system. We purchased the old system in 2004 for about \$900.00. The system that they want is made by AT&T, includes one base and 5 hand-sets, and will cost

about \$610.00. There was some discussion about the capabilities of the system. The purchase of the phone system for a maximum of \$650.00 was approved unanimously.

Kendall Mott has asked us to purchase a new portable battery system from Sears for about \$500.00. It is a lithium ion system and it would get the shop off of the Dewalt products that they are using now. This purchase for \$500.00 was approved unanimously on the condition that it will be accepted by the park service.

Miscellaneous

Ken gave a short synopsis of what has happened so far with the Montevideo Parking Lot project. The first part of the job that has been done for a long time has finally been approved to be repaid by the SHA but we have not received the payment yet. The second part of the project has been done but the paperwork has not been submitted yet. The sign board that Naomi Manders wants has gone up in price significantly since we received the first estimate. We have not approved the purchase of this last part since we have not received payment for the first part. Dave stated that the trail is roughed in but two bridges have been damaged and are not open at this time.

There is a proposed trail from the Park to Seneca Road and it is flagged and marked, but not submitted to the state yet. Unfortunately, a person at the state left the service recently and she was reviewing 220 trails. So, the process is going to be backed up for a while.

Bruce Goldensohn was talked into becoming the Vice President of the Friends. This was voted on and approved unanimously.

Bonnie Bell was asked to join the board. This was voted on and approved unanimously.

Ken said thank you to everyone for allowing us to move the meeting. It was stated and agreed upon that we should not move the meetings at the last minute. We agreed upon and set the meetings for the rest of this year and agreed to make the regular meeting dates the first Wednesday of the second month of each quarter of the year. The meeting dates are set for May 1st, August 14th, and November 6th. Dave Powell will be out of town on November 9th. Ken will set the date of the picnic as soon as possible.

Roundtable- Everyone

Bruce Goldensohn stated that there is a company that refurbishes old computers in Rockville. He mentioned that the Friends could buy our own computer relatively cheaply and then store all of our info on it. This was in reference to Ellen talking about storing all of the old Friends information. Bruce also mentioned that we need to promote the group more and would make a personal effort to do this.

Dave Powell thinks that we should try to have a booth at the Montgomery County Epic Event at the SoccerPlex on October 13, 2013. He also noted that Target donates to local projects and we should try to contact them if a project comes up. The Montgomery County Road Runners have events at the park on March 2nd and March 24th.

Bonnie Bell said that she will look into doing a booth or handing out brochures at some of the upcoming events. She would like to see all of the groups' web sites linked to ours, MORE's, and MCRR's. She would also like to add the trail work days to our Friends web site calendar.

Earl Pfeiffer, as the head peony gardener, is going to do a talk about peonies on April 27th at the Gaithersburg Community Museum. The park is going to grind or cut up the remaining stumps in the peony field so that it can be mowed. Earl mentioned that there was a problem with a renter along the Greenway Trail near 355. It seems that he actually rents part of the land that the Greenway Trail is on and he has rights and some control in this area.

Steve Hackman completed and sent in our tax forms on time again this year.

Ken Grundy stated that he called the city of Gaithersburg about handing out our brochures at the Winter Lights and the city didn't feel comfortable starting that when they had their own flyers and some flyers from the paying sponsors already being handed out. I have not heard from the city about their donation from Winter Lights, but I expect to receive it soon.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 1st at 7:00 pm.

Addendum

Effective February 2013, Dr. Stan Forster has resigned from the Board of Directors of The Friends of Seneca Creek State Park.

In mid-March, Naomi called Ken to say that she was close to having the next step in the Montevideo parking lot project ready for us to purchase. She later sent me the bids and said that the state has ok'd the Kirby Built product. Ken e-mailed and called the board members and the purchase was approved with 5 yea's, 1 abstaining vote, and one vote absent. Steve signed the form and sent a check to Kirby Built.