

Friends of Seneca Creek State Park

Board Meeting Minutes from May 7, 2014

Call to order at 7:00 pm

Attendees- Dave Powell, Dave Scull, Bruce Goldensohn, Ellen Erdelsky, Steve Hackman, Agatha DeJonge and Ken Grundy.

Absent- Earl Pfeiffer and Bonnie Bell

The February 5th meeting minutes were approved with corrections.

Treasurer's Report – Steve Hackman

See report. \$294.00 in donations are \$80.00 from Sandy Morehouse, life member, \$110.00 from Sirens Media for using the park after hours, and \$104.00 in box donations and old disc sales.

Park Purchases net was \$330.76. We spent \$449.99 on a projector, \$477.71 on t-shirts for volunteers, and received \$596.74 in payments from MORE and the Disc Golf group for the port-a-potties.

Steve noted that the port-a-pottie cost has gone up for the first time in a few years to \$76.00 a month.

Steve did our annual tax forms again and they were submitted on time.

Membership Report- Ellen Erdelsky

See report.

Our total membership remained the same. Ellen sent letters to old members who have lapsed to see if they still have any interest in the friends group. 35 of those she was unable to find or she could not verify a good address so they have been deleted from the active file. 24 letters were sent out to the other people in this group, only one of them came back with a bad address and 2 people rejoined.

Management Report- Dave Powell

Dave said that the Mule from the grant is great and there was a question about getting the Mule out to Schaefer Road so they could use it for trail work and Dave thought that this would be possible. It has 4 seats and 2 of those fold down to create more cargo space.

Dave spent 4 days interviewing candidates for the assistant manager position. Dave should hopefully know who it is going to be within a few weeks.

The new conference room is almost done.

Kim Lloyd's mom recently passed away. No one knew what Kim has been up to, but Dave did mention that he did a reference for Kim to be a camp host for a group in Idaho.

The seasonal secretary, Kelly, is working out great. There is a possibility that she may be able to get a long term contract.

There were 3 filming requests in 2 weeks, all from companies located in Silver Spring Maryland.

MYCC from Montgomery County came to the park in March and did some work around the park.

The CJC will be coming to the park in few months. They will supply labor and buy many materials for about 6 projects that they will be doing.

Flooding over the last week took out a few bridges including one large bridge by route 118.

There has been a lot of work done on the Seneca Bluffs trail and we hope it open by the MOCO Epic in October.

Ranger Brian Rochon has been working on trail reporting forms so people can easily report trail conditions, good or bad.

The park web site needs some work and hopefully Dave will be able to work on it soon.

The property that used to be leased to Buddy Flint is likely to be leased long term to the Warrior Canine Connection. They are a non-profit organization that helps vets with PTSD. It is estimated that they will spend \$800,000.00 to renovate the property. The long term lease could be about 25 years.

Tony Cohen, at the Menare Foundation, received a grant and matching funds to do some fix up work on the house. He also asked the park for a sign for the back of that area to direct bikers to the trail.

The seasonal employees have started. The naturalist is Casey and she is already very busy. The boat center is open. Dave Scull asked about the park doing a mountain bike nature trail tour and there was some discussion about this.

MORE is surveying the Patuxent River area between route 94 north and route 27 for potential trails and is having a meeting that is open to the public on June 12th. It was noted that Dan Hudson is involved with this project. Dan is a MPS trail coordinator, a former MORE president and formerly with the IMBA.

There was a question for Dave Powell about the condition of the Monocacy area after the bad floods last week, but Dave has not been up there in a while.

The volunteer breakfast was a big success with good attendance. We set up our “booth”, but did not gain any new members.

We had approved the purchase of a desk for Dave Powell but he didn’t find anything that he really liked so he bought a desk through the state.

The only outstanding purchase is the stickers to put on pre-existing signs to better mark some of the trails.

Purchase Requests

When the conference room is done it will need a table and 8 chairs. It is estimated that the set will cost about \$2000.00. We decided to wait on this purchase until the conference room is done and see what Dave wants in there and the approximate cost.

It was stated that Dave will miss the August meeting because he will be in Colorado on vacation.

Bonnie sent Ken an e-mail stating that we are getting low on brochures and she would like the Friends to buy some more. Ken requested a motion for a purchase of brochures for up to \$200.00. Some board members thought that was too high. Ken is going to talk to Bonnie to see if she can get a quote for brochures on regular paper, not glossy like the last batch.

Dave mentioned that his budget for the next fiscal year was not bad.

Roundtable- Everyone

Ken told the board about his new contact at Asbury Methodist Home and how Les Ross had contacted the group. Les hopes to build an alliance between the Friends, Asbury, and the park that will benefit all parties. After we met with Dave Powell it was agreed that Les would spread the word about the park and the Friends group to the people of Asbury.

Ken also mentioned that the Friends received a letter from Christina Holden about the Wildlands legislation signing.

Ken stated that he would probably not be the best person to do the Winter Lights proceeds paperwork. Bruce said that he would give it a try and Ken needs to send the info that he has to Bruce.

Bruce had a question about bronze membership to the Friends and how many there are. Bruce knows a landscaping company that did some work for him that may be interested in doing some work at the park for some advertising. Bruce will check into that.

Dave Powell stated that WSSC will be rehabbing many water lines all over the park.

Ellen asked if there could be more benches along trails in the park. The park has added 10 to 15 new benches in the last few years. Dave said that he will consider any suggestions as to the location of new benches. Dave Scull noted that it would be nice to install some benches along the trails at Schaefer Road since there are some nice views there. There are many people who hike there in addition to the mountain bikers. Dave Powell did note that there are many places that would be hard to get the proper equipment to at Schaefer trails.

Steve Hackman said that Bonnie had mentioned in her e-mail that it would be nice to have some photo galleries on our web site. Steve said that he can do that and would work on it.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 6th at 7:00 pm.

Addendum

Dave Powell called Ken Grundy to see if the Friends could purchase a motor for the pontoon boat that just died. The estimated cost originally of \$2700.00. The estimate was later up'd to \$3000.00 and that was approved with 5 yes votes.

The annual picnic is set for Saturday, November 15th, 2014 at 11:00 am.