

Friends of Seneca Creek State Park

Board Meeting Minutes from November 2, 2013

Call to order at about 1:00 pm

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

Absent- Steve Hackman

The August 14th meeting minutes were approved with corrections.

Treasurer's Report – Ken Grundy for Steve Hackman

See report. Notes that follow were sent to Ken Grundy but not reported at the meeting. \$50.00 of the donations were from TROT. Administrative purchases consisted of \$92.00 for picnic invite postage, \$20.51 for envelopes, and \$18.66 for a 2 year web address renewal.

Also not reported at the meeting were the park purchases. This is a quote of what Steve sent to Ken: "Park Purchases: \$434.46 porta john, \$230.00 tree signs (steep plastic increase in last year, I drilled the mounting holes myself to save \$2.00 per sign and eliminated rounded corners due to new mounting method)."

Membership Report- Ellen Erdelsky

See report.

Nine new members have joined recently, including most from having a booth at the MOCO Epic race. There was some talk about the booths that we have had in the past and where to have booths in the future. It was agreed that booths at locations other than the park didn't work at all and booths at the park would be considered in the future. We also discussed how we could have a booth or hand out our brochures at the winter lights. Bonnie is going to look into this.

Management Report- Dave Powell

Dave Powell was promoted to the Park Manager position and will most likely retire in about 5 years. The Assistant Manager position is open and should be filled eventually. The park should be getting a new ranger in July. Donna Linnemann is transferring Patapsco State Park but she will still be coming here one day a week. Dave will probably advertise for a seasonal receptionist.

Purchase Requests- Dave Powell needs a new desk for his office. The board approved the purchase of a desk for up to \$1000.00 unanimously. A neighbor of the park had her dog and cat attacked by a dog that was being walked in the park but not on a leash. Dave Powell requested that we purchase about 10 to 15 signs to be put at many of the trail heads. This purchase was approved unanimously for up to \$500.00. Dave also mentioned that he would like some picture frames for pictures of the park to put around the visitors center. This purchase was not voted on.

While Dave Powell was in Tennessee and Kentucky he visited a very busy park called Lake Radnor. They have a Friends group and a very nice quarterly newsletter. We are going to take a look at the newsletter and hopefully find some ideas to get a newsletter of our own going soon.

There was a short talk about our new members and how we should be in contact with them at least once a year in addition to the renewal letter that they receive. We talked about trying to send out a newsletter at least once a year.

Ellen mentioned that as we receive donations that are not dues, she would like to find out who, when and how much so she can send a thank you letter.

Ellen brought up the idea of changing our membership renewal date so that all members would receive the renewal at the same time. This idea has some good and bad points, but Ken would like to get Steve's input on this and we will discuss this at the next meeting.

Winter Lights is starting soon and they have a bunch of special events happening this year including S'mores Night, Runs and Walks, Leashes and Lights and Joint Staff Night.

The park is hosting First Day Hike again this year on January 1st. It was mentioned that we could have a booth at that event.

It looks like a beach is going to be built at the park eventually. It will cost millions of dollars and take 4 to 6 years to build.

Dave Powell stated that he should be the park manager for about 5 years per a contract he will have with the state. That will coincide with him having about 35 years with the park service and he would retire then.

Roundtable- Everyone

Earl stated that he is still the head peony gardener but one of his main helper has moved out of the area. The idea came up of having some volunteer groups come in to help Earl with some of the larger projects.

Ken stated that he missed the deadline for the Winter Lights donation and he apologized to the board. We can try to fill out the paperwork for next year.

Ellen asked about the old bulletin board at the Montevideo Road parking lot. Dave Powell said that he would like to move it to route 28 since it has been replaced by a new board that is already up.

It was also noted that Dick Denton painted many new trail blazes on the Seneca Bluffs Trail.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 5th at 7:00 pm.

The meetings for the rest of the year will be May 7th, August 6th, and after the picnic in November, date to be determined.