

Friends of Seneca Creek State Park

Board Meeting Minutes from June 15, 2011 (May Meeting)

Call to order at 7:00 pm

Attendee's- Steve Hackman, Ed Branges, Earl Pfeiffer, Dave Scull, Dr. Stan Forster Dave Powell, Josette Wiggins, Kerrie Kyde, Brian Astelle, Bruce Goldensohn, Naomi Manders, and Ken Grundy.

Absent- Ellen Erdelsky

(Approved minutes from February 6, 2011 meeting later in the meeting.)

Treasurer's Report- Steve Hackman

See sheet. \$800.00 of our \$852.59 in donations for the year are from Winter Lights. Most of the administrative expenses were stamps and labels. Park purchases consisted of the Park Quest Donation and a laminator.

Trail money breakdown- Money donated to be specifically used for trails(Ed Schultze)- \$450.00

Greenway Trails money- \$596.35

Trail Bridges(TROT)- \$2000.00 Total of \$3046.35

Membership Report- Ellen Erdelsky

No report this meeting, will report at next meeting.

Kerrie Kyde

Kerrie is seeking help with organizing and recruiting help with invasive species removal. She then discussed the 3 major invasive species in the park.

Trailhead Parking Lot Grant

Naomi Manders is spearheading a grant request for a larger gravel parking lot on Montevideo Road which is off of the Seneca Bluffs Trail. The request will be for \$30,000.00. The lot is now 200 feet by 25 feet and we want to expand it to 200 feet by 65 feet. Naomi has asked that the Friends group be the requestor on this grant and would front the money and then be reimbursed from the state if the grant would be approved. Naomi will also manage the collection and reporting of the volunteer hours that we will have to have. The grant requires 20% of the total grant amount in volunteer hours which equals \$6000.00 or 400 man hours. DNR and the Seneca Management need to meet with Naomi and get some details worked out. There was a motion to approve the grant request but Ken did not want to move forward with this without the Parks approval at this time.

Black Rock Road Neighbors

Brain Astelle lives on Black Rock Road near the mill and wanted to see if the Friends could do anything to help with getting the area cleaned up and some port-a-potties. People come there almost every weekend to picnic, fish, swim, etc. They play loud music, urinate in the area, and leave their trash everywhere. Brian estimates that there are 100 people or more on any weekend day. There are no restrooms or trashcans. The DNR owns the land but it is leased to MNCPPC. Therefore, SCSP does not have anything to do with running this park. There was some discussion about the general use of this park.

The minutes from the last meeting were approved at this point.

Management Report- Dave Powell

The sign boards that we approved the purchase of during the last meeting were actually paid for by a promotion from the North Face company. The signs are general use to be posted in numerous spots around the park, written in both English and Spanish.

Clif Bars were donated to the Friends group, will be sold at the park, and the Friends will receive \$.03 per bar.

There is a new Ranger named Dave. One new Park Tech started in May and another started in June. That brings the total staff at the park to 8.

The budget for the fiscal year that starts on July 1 is the same as the budget for the last year.

The Civic Justice Corp program will not be happening at the park this summer.

A contract extension with Winter Lights has been worked out.

The state is looking into making a beach at SCSP similar to one at Rocky Gap State Park, however the estimated cost is \$11,000,000.00.

Seneca Ridge trail will connect Black rock to Riffleford Road. The Seneca Bluffs trail will connect Route 28 to Montevideo Road. About 1 or 2 miles of 4 are done and there is a bridge being built this weekend. There will eventually be a connector from the Schaeffer Road trails to the day use area of SCSP.

Students from the Poolesville HS Ecology Club are going to work on re-blazing trails.

On National Trails Day there was a REI sponsored event that netted 228 volunteer hours.

HTO had an event at the Park last month where they had bicycles and boats that you could try out for free. It seemed like it was well attended.

Roundtable- Everyone

Ken- Ken mentioned that he wrote an article about the Friends in our neighborhood newsletter which will hopefully result in some new members since there are many neighbors who use the park on a regular basis.

It was mentioned that there is a Pheasant Run neighborhood meeting with the city and that we could promote our Group at the meeting.

Josette- Josette proposed that the Friends sponsor some kind of event at the park to get people out. She mentioned an Easter Egg Hunt for example. We talked about the event that we had many years ago and that it was a lot of work and one of the rangers did most of the work.

Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday , August 10th at 7:00 pm. (Rescheduled for Wednesday, August 10th.)