

Meeting Minutes for Friends of Potato Creek State Park

Date and time: 1/16/07, 7:00 PM

Location: Nature Center

Participants:

Corey Rieman

Tim Cordell

Kathy Serrat

Brian and Anna Krueger and Family

Jim Webb

Ralph Campion

Mark Daily

Linda Matzat

Minutes:

In 2006, we finished the year with a total of 42 memberships. We are now in a new membership drive. The drive goes from Jan 1st to March 30th. There are points assigned for each type of membership. 1st place is 2007 pass, 2nd place is shirt and 3rd place is mug and park patch. Jan has recruited the first new member.

Corey Reiman was the guest speaker. Corey is the Assistant Park Manager and talked about his hopes and dreams for Potato Creek.

Those included:

- Corey has always wanted and is very happy there is a Friends Group established at Potato Creek State Park.
- He would like to see more events at the Park, new festivals, to associate more events with the Park. He wants the Park to be known for something meaningful that everyone enjoys aligned with our mission.
- Corey expressed his appreciation for the cleanliness of the Park, some of those efforts were as a result of the Friend's Group.
- Corey would like to see a really clean park, similar to those he has visited in Canada.
- He would like to see some of the wetlands, prairies and other areas restored to where they were 200 years ago. Some of these areas are really expensive to restore.
- The Park is burning a lot of area to control wildfires. If we burned less, we would attract some bird species that we are not currently attracting due to lack of growth. The Friend's group could perhaps help the Park do more invasive plant control.
- Improve the Park overall and create new resources for new areas to be developed.

General Discussion:

- Mark asked if a wish list could be made with the associated dollar amounts with the projects and perhaps we could do some. We could take this list to corporations and sponsors and solicit some support. There are some grants available.
- There was discussion about fireworks that used to be held at PC. Apparently the DNR and Lions Club used to sponsor the fireworks and when those resources were pulled, they ended.
- Linda received some information from Friends of Bendix Woods soliciting for funds for specific projects. She shared that brochure with the group.
- Tim suggested that we take on the projects we have slated this year first since our group is so small, and take on the bigger projects as we get larger.

Further Discussion

The minutes of the November 16th meeting were read and approved.

At the last Board meeting, Ralph mentioned that new proposals should be received in writing and then approved. Brian stressed that we need to be sure the request is in writing, get it to Ralph and he will present to Board.

There has been some work on grants. Beneficial Finance was contacted but has not returned our call. That appears to be dead. There is another grant source available from NIPSCO, these can fund some of the Park's projects.

Treasures Report:

743.37 was the balance at the end of November.

For December:

128.71 Insurance bill was paid on Dec 31, 2006.

35.00 was given to John for a new membership

649.76 is current balance at the end of December.

Mountain Bike Trail:

234 man-hours have been worked in December on the mountain bike trail. The trail is about 2.5 miles long right now. Great progress has been made with the mild weather. NIMBA plans to have a work day with the Friend's group in March. That date is tentatively scheduled for 3/24 at 9:00 at the Nature Center. If the weather does not cooperate, we will change the date.

The newsletter Mark has prepared now will be for Fall, 2006 and the next newsletter will be in March or April. Kathy has email addresses for all but 8 members, Mark will email all those available and Tim will copy the 8 and mail out.

Special Events:

No updates.

Meeting membership speakers:

February: Linda Byer-District Wildlife Biologist
March: NIMBA update on Mountain Bike Trail

New Business:

Elections will be held on 3/20. 3 positions will be opening. Those are Vice President, Treasurer, and Board Member. If you are interested, let us know.

February event for sign painting is 2/24/07. Corey asked for a sign up sheet 2 weeks in advance so he can accommodate. The event will start at 9:00 AM and end at 3:00. We are to meet in the Service area. All materials will be provided. We should email the list of all members as a reminder and see who we can get to come and help.

Brian started a Friends of Potato Creek Memories Scrapbook, they include pictures from most of the events. There are also some newspaper clippings.

In closing, Brian thanked everyone for all the work in 2006 and looks forward to 2007.

Brian adjourned the meeting at 7:53. Motion carried.