

Friends of Potato Creek State Park Meeting Minutes
3/20/07 Location: PCSP Nature Center 7:00 PM

Attendees: see attached file

Brian called the meeting to order.

Kathy introduced our NIMBA (Northern Indiana Mountain Bike Association) speakers, they are:

Scott Kelsey-President
Greg Miller- Trail Construction
Russ Gelow-Trail Construction
Matt Hummel-Trail Construction
Mike Spain-Race Director

New NIMBA website is nimba-bike.org, you can see all our events there.

Scott talked about current NIMBA events. Trail is done for 2 and ¼ miles, the rest is almost completely flagged. Working with Jim and Tim, we have about 6.5 miles of trail flagged, it is a beginner/intermediate loop. The trail starts at the beach, goes to the right after you cross the road. The ride is nice through some old areas of the park, it goes through the rock gardens, around old foundations. It shows a lot of all the features of the park. A sample sign was shown; it is a 4X6 wolmanized post with routed insets for the picture/communication.

Questions:

1. Will the trail be wide enough for passing? Answer: Many sections are narrower, so it will be necessary to stop to pass.
2. How do we rate the trail difficulty? Answer: We use some common rules used for difficulty that other groups use for consistency.
3. With the length of the trail, will there be cutouts? Answer: Yes, there will be cutouts, those exits will be marked.
4. July date for completion? Is that for first phase? Answer: Yes, we would like to complete the beginner loop by July and start flagging the advanced loop. The completion will be based on weather and amount of help.
5. Will there be a sign at the beginning explaining the trail, rules? Answer: Yes, we will have handout maps at the gate and at the beginning.
6. For the “no bikes” sign on the back of the sign, it was suggested that we just say “no bikes”.
7. What will the surface be? Answer: It will be mostly dirt, but erosion materials may be used in certain spots.
8. Joint venture for maintenance? Answer: No, we do everything. We build it, we maintain it.

Saturday is a scheduled work day. Need good heavy leather gloves, long sleeves, eye protection and heavy pants. Shovels will be used, those can be brought.

Anyone volunteering to do this will have to sign a release. This work is not suitable for younger children.

There are mountain bike trails at Imagination Glen, Warsaw, TK Lawless. These are local trails available for riding. The NIMBA team met Gary Fisher at Indy and apparently Indiana is now getting a lot of attention for mountain biking.

We would appreciate any help on the trail on Saturday.

End of presentation, begin business meeting:

We have 4 members that want to re-run for office, we need 2 voting members and 2 non-voting members. We have 4 positions open, we voted in favor of that.

For committees, there are also positions available, all agreed to re-run and hold those positions for the next term.

Our membership drive is going well, we have 12 new members and 7 renewals, 1st place is Ralph (11 points), 2nd place is Jan (10 points) and 3rd place is John (6 points). Thanks for all your efforts.

Kathy read the minutes, all were approved, no corrections.

We had our sign painting event this month, there were 11 members that showed up and 1 Park employee. The time totaled 44 hours for the day.

Financial report

104.39 insurance paid for the month

444.00 deposits

1184.37 is new balance

501c3 has been submitted to an attorney for review, we have not heard back. As soon as we get it reviewed, we will send it in.

NIPSCO grant has been submitted. This is the Environmental Challenge Fund. We should hear back on Earth Day.

JF New has donated 500.00 for a project in the park and we are able to use it for anything we need.

We have 1 new membership and 3 renewals tonight.

Application for a grant once we get our 501c3 is possible through Beneficial Finance.

Special events committee, we recently lost one of our members, we need a volunteer.

Linda said that the speaker for April will be Rick Glassman, he is Education Coordinator with the St. Joseph Soil and Water Conservation District, he will discuss the St. Joe water quality, recycling and global warming.

For fundraising, we may do a chicken BBQ, 5/26, 6/30, 7/7 are the dates up for discussion. There is concern about 5/26, we are concerned about the weather and day use for traffic. There is a minimum of 500 chicken dinners. June and July might be better since the beach will be open and we will have a lot of day use traffic.

Tim talked about a new project with the Division of Forestry. They have plants available for planting on the state property. Tim ordered 4500 of them. They are free, so we need to plant them. Tim will need some help planting these. This will most likely happen in April and May.

Jim thanked us for all our efforts, he appreciates all our work.

Ralph has been selected as Park Volunteer of the year for 2006. Congratulations to Ralph, he received a plaque.

March 20th- NIMBA workday, meet at Nature Center at 9 AM, will last until 3 PM.

April 28th-campground and trail cleanup, meet at family gate, this will also be from 9-3.

May 5th -bike safety day, we will have a bike rodeo and mountain bike lessons for beginners.

Please check out our website at www.friendsofpotatocreek.org

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