

1) Introductions

- A) Call Meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.
- B) Welcome Everyone
- C) The Purpose & Mission

2) Guest Speaker – Linda introduced

- A) Michael Subonis - National Weather Service

HIGHLIGHTS and POINTS of INTEREST

Their web site is www.weather.gov/IWX

Mike doesn't take credit for the good weather so he doesn't have to take the blame for the bad weather.

Our National Weather Service is located in Syracuse because when Grissom AFB closed there wasn't sufficient radar coverage between Ft. Wayne, Indianapolis and Chicago for our area.

During his presentation Mike predicted the bad weather we had on Thursday (10/18/07). He also predicted that in this area this year's winter temperatures will be warmer than normal and the precipitation will be wetter than normal (hopefully rain instead of snow).

Mike explained the new weather mapping that focuses on more specific locations and paths of weather systems instead of counties. The reason behind the change is to warn fewer people. People will delay their response to an emergency when they have conflicting forecasts or are warned too many times unnecessarily. So the new forecasting is intended to save lives.

3) Review of Minutes

- A) Correction & Approval of Minutes from 9-18-07
Minutes were read and no corrections were proposed.

4) Treasurer Reports

A) Financial report	
Checking account	\$2,218.22
Deduction for Safe Deposit Box	-\$18.00
New Members	\$74.00
For Clearing Prairie	<u>\$200.00</u>
TOTAL	\$2,474.22

CD – no new interest reported yet – balance approximately \$4,200.00

5) General Presentations

- A) Vice President report

Ralph wanted to add a special notice of "thanks" to Linda, Kathy & Sylvia for the brush clearing of the Autumn Olive in the north Prairie. The Friends Group received \$200 for the effort.

Also the 22 Girl Scouts were great to work with and did a good job.

B) Report on Friends Gathering from Fort Harrison State Park on 9-22 (Tim & Jim)

Tim reported the highlights from the fundraising techniques used by the other groups at the event.

Mounds (since it is located in town it has characteristics of a city park) – this group spends a lot of time doing gardening projects. Tim also added that he found it amusing that the Mounds group was impressed because “they had people that came from as far as 40 miles away to their special events”.

Hardy Lake – they have a rehabilitation center for raptors which is a good draw for attendance at the park. They have a breakfast the last Saturday of every month to raise money. They also sell shirts at festivals. Tim noted that they had an interesting discussion regarding “food handling” from the breakfast event.

Turkey Run – They have had better luck working with convention & visitor’s bureaus than we have. They also sent some people to a grant class to apply for grant money.

Brown County – This park offers guides for tour buses through the park and charge \$200. They recently completed an all-purpose trail which cost over \$700,000 which was paid for almost completely with grant money. The trail is ADA-handicap accessible.

McCormick’s Creek – they use reusable lanyards and name tags so members and visitors will know each others names and send reminder letters to members for yearly dues.

Tim remarked that Jim asked every group how many active members participated in their groups and the average was between 15 – 25 people. **Since** some of the groups have been established much longer than ours and have much bigger total membership, we shouldn’t feel bad about not having a large group of active participating members.

Other tips Tim reported from the gathering were:

- To try and balance fun and activities at events because food is a good draw.
- The 501c3 approval we recently received is provisional and that we will need to submit a report in 5 years. We are somehow just supposed to know this as there isn’t a notice sent by the IRS so we need to mark our calendar.
- We are encouraged to give receipts for non-monetary donations.
 - The donor should fill in the value of the product on the receipt themselves although we would add a description of the item donated.
- We cannot do raffles if the Park co-sponsors it. If it’s just sponsored by the Friends Group and if we’ve been in existence for 5 years or more it’s acceptable.
- They discussed record keeping. They suggested internal auditing (**by** 2 or more people) and insurance, both of which we already comply with.

A question was asked if we can do auctions since we’re a 501c3 which Tim said we would need to clarify if this is something we want to do.

C) Report on National Land Day

Brian reported that there were:

- 39 volunteers
- 120½ hrs of time

- 37 bags of trash collected.
- Brian thanked everyone involved for their time and effort.

6) Public Relations

A) Special Event Committee

1) Halloween weekend – Updates

Anna brought in samples of the different sizes of pumpkins that will be used at the event on October 27. There are a total of 75 pumpkins with 25 smaller pie pumpkins to paint on and 50 larger pumpkins to carve and paint.

We have \$50 of candy donated from Wal-Mart in addition to the candy that Friends Member's have donated.

Volunteers are still needed to help set up and clean up after the kids have completed their pumpkins. Also to keep the kids focused, organized and moving along with their pumpkins. See Anna if you're interested.

The Haunted Maze is from 1 – 2:30 – the kids will be given candy at stations from members in costume in the maze

A question was asked about scaring the kids during the "Haunted Maze" and it was pointed out NOT to try and scare the kids because they might run off and be difficult to find.

Additional information will be posted on the web site.

The flyers are ready and they will be handed out at the family gate. They will also be posted on the bathroom doors and we will ask if they can be posted in the camp store as well.

B) Program Committee

- 1) Nov. Meeting Rich Dunbar IDNR Division of Nature Preserve
Linda confirmed Rich Dunbar as the speaker for November.

C) Fundraising Committee

The Halloween Weekend is the last event for 2007.

7) New Business

A) 2008 Work Days / Special Events on web site

Check the website for the 2008 events.

B) Discuss on Changing Nov meeting to Nov 13 Instead of Nov. 20 Need to discuss

It was noted that the next meeting is on November 20 which is 3 days before Thanksgiving. There was concern that it would be too close to the holiday for attendance.

After some discussion, the attendees were polled and the group voted to keep the meeting on the 20th since the speaker is already scheduled. However there won't be a board meeting unless it's necessary.

C) Discuss on Dec. Meeting / Dec. 18 or 11 (Cancel Dec. Meeting pick up in Jan.)

It was confirmed that there is no meeting scheduled for December.

8) Old Business

A)

- B) Floor open for comments
There were no questions.
- C) Next Meeting Nov.

9) Adjournment

Meeting Adjourn at _____ 8:30 _____ P.M.

The purpose & Mission of the Friends of Potato Creek State Park is to develop & support projects & events that help preserve, manage & interpret the natural & cultural heritage as well as the recreational opportunities of Potato Creek State Park.