

Friends of Potato Creek State Park Meeting Minutes
3/18/08 Location: PCSP Nature Center 7:00 PM

Brian called the meeting to order at 7:09 PM.

Brian welcomed everyone and stated the purpose and mission of the Friend's Group.

Since this is our annual membership meeting and elections, there was no speaker.

The minutes were read and approved.

Elections:

There are 4 positions to fill tonight; they are President, Secretary and 2 Member at Large positions. These are 2 year terms.

Treasurer's report:

Beginning balance:	\$7636.15
Deposit:	\$300.00
Total expenses:	\$434.78 (Quicken software, PO Box fee and Insurance)
Checking balance new:	\$7501.37

Special Events:

The **egg hunt** is March 22nd. The location is Whispering Winds shelter, meet at the shelter at 10:30 AM. The cost is \$1.00 plus regular gate fees. Fliers have been sent out around North Liberty and donations are still coming in. Anna has baskets donated from First Source Bank in North Liberty and she has received donations from Wal-Mart in South Bend and Al's in Michigan City. The Krueger's have also donated some items along with other Friend's Members. Anyone wishing to help should meet at the shelter early. Anna also needs tables and garbage cans, the Park will get those in place for her.

Earth Day event is April 19th; we will be working on the bank stabilization project. The workday is from 9-3, and lunch will be provided. Meet at the Beach parking lot. All help is appreciated.

Jim Rahilly, one of our Board members was injured in a pedestrian hit and run accident about a month ago. Jim sustained multiple broken bones and other injuries. The entire Friend's Group wishes Jim a speedy recovery. There is a fund set up at First Source Bank for Jim if anyone would like to contribute.

Tim discussed the new Friends Group Agreements with the DNR, the document is available for review and the deadline for signatures is 4/1/08. There are some minor changes from the last agreement.

We then began the general discussion about goals and objectives for the FOPC. We need to have mission based goals. The general overall mission is to provide support to Park Management. Tim talked about an example of the Friends Group at Brown County State Park building a \$700,000.00 walking trail. This is an excellent example of how the Friends Group directly supported the Park mission.

There was open discussion about Projects and Events and whether we should do one or the other or both. Here are some discussion points:

- Events draw people in, it is better to have these in spring and fall when Park attendance is lower.
- Halloween is always a very popular event and should be done.
- Good Friday is technically the opening day of the Park but attendance that weekend is heavily weather related.
- We should have some activities in conjunction with Welcome Back Weekend.
- Should we consider a craft bazaar at the Beach? After some discussion, it was decided that this really did not meet the FOPC mission statement.
- Maybe a Memorial Day Parade?

- Could we have a fundraiser outside of the Park property?
- The most attended current events are Halloween and Easter weekend events and takes a small amount of folks to work, usually 6-7.
- There are 4 programs mandated for the Park that they must do. To meet this 4 event goal, the Park set up the following events, they are Welcome Back Weekend, Tater Traditions, Prairie Harvest and Halloween. We really need to help the Park support these 4 events, that is our mission.
- We need events and projects that Kid's like.
- Lots of kids can help with projects.
- The core group does the bulk of the work and we need to careful about burnout.
- We need to do both Projects and Events, just be careful about how many we can do.
- We need a list of Projects, rated by expense. Can some local Companies support us with project dollars? Some members cannot physically work so hard and maybe we can raise money to have some of the tough physical work done by contractors.
- Mission based goals need to be set.
- There may be other groups we can work with to offset cost, like perhaps the Audubon Society?
- Some of these projects don't take a lot of money.
- WalMart has a new community grant program starting in July, perhaps we can get some funding there.
- Start recognition for those who contribute, we cannot put their name physically on the Park property but we can recognize them in our Newsletter and with thank you's.
- Mobilize local talent like the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.
- There may be companies looking for Team Building projects, maybe we can use them.
- There are some companies looking for Community projects.
- Need to be careful about burnout in the group.
- Need to also drive up memberships to spread out the work.

Some comments from Jim Webb:

- Funding is to be task oriented. Partnerships are also encouraged; Friends Groups are really being encouraged around the State.
- FOPC was intended to be a diverse group.

Kay motioned, it was seconded and carried that the Friend's Group support Tim's 4 major events and pick one other event. The egg hunt was the other event added. We also decided to pick 3 projects, this would be for 2009.

Elections:

There were 7 folks interested in the 4 open Board positions. We elect people to the Board and the Board elects them to the position. Each candidate gave a short summary about themselves before voting. The candidates were:

1. Brian Krueger
2. Marci DeGroot
3. Sylvia Kimbel
4. Kay Laney
5. Kathy Serrat
6. Jim Rahilly
7. Anna Krueger

17 voting members voted and Brian, Marci, Sylvia and Kathy were elected to the Board.

Jan Shupert-Arick and Jim Rahilly were recognized for their contribution to the Friends Group.

Monthly meeting discussion was next on the agenda, here are some points made by members:

- Guest speakers are good. During the summer, maybe meet in shelter and bring potluck.

- Saturday AM meetings might be better attended. Campers are here.
- Have quarterly speakers, promote the speakers more and make it a full day on a Saturday.
- Activities foster more memberships.
- Speakers have been wonderful, Linda is doing a great job.
- Perhaps we are meeting too often, perhaps we should meet quarterly. The Board meeting could perhaps be on a monthly basis and open to all.
- Linda could continue the monthly speakers but sometimes we should compensate them.
- Watch how we spend time, Board meetings could also interfere with them.
- Everyone likes the speakers.
- Combine meetings with projects.
- Next year perhaps move to quarterly membership meetings. Board meetings could also be changed, if needed.
- John motioned, it was seconded and carried that for 2008 we will continue the monthly meetings.

Next month's speaker is Jody Melton, she is an expert in watersheds and will explain how PC fits into the big scheme of things.

Next meeting is April 15th at 7:00 PM at the Nature Center.

Meeting adjourned.

Please check out our website at www.friendsofpotatocreek.org