

March 15, 2011

### Friends of Potato Creek Board Meeting

In Attendance: Melody Golubski, Marci deGroot, Marie Hamstra, Kathy Serrat, Tim Cordell, John Richardson, Brian and Anna Kreuger

·We filled eggs for 25 minutes when all the candy was used up. Brian, Anna, and family will take the rest of the empty eggs home and fill.

·Tim wrote some notes from the last meeting since the minutes were lost.

Kathy motioned to approve the notes, and Melody seconded with all in favor.

·Kathy's last treasurer's report:

## March 2011 Balance Sheet

<u>Account</u>	<u>Balance</u>		
Memberships	\$565.00		
		<b><u>March</u></b>	
Special Events	\$505.27	New Memb's	\$85.00
		Special events	-\$69.13
Park Supply	\$2,147.43	Park Supply Fund	-\$140.62
		Gen Ops	\$0.00
General Op's	\$1,582.69	Trail Proj	\$0.00
Grants & Donations	\$2,411.84	<b><u>Net Change</u></b>	<b><u>-\$124.75</u></b>

NOTE: Changes since 2-15-11

<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$7,212.23</b>
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**as of 3-15-11**

#### **Encumbered funds**

bird seed	\$892.18
Mangus	\$250.00
Spkr Fund	\$89.77

Trail Proj	\$2,411.84	as of 3-
	<b><u>\$3,643.79</u></b>	15

Marie moves to approve Treasurer's Report, and Marci seconds with all in favor.

·Old Business: Potato Creek Fest: The Friends will not participate this year.

·Egg Hunt Update: Anna has secured donations from some retailers: \$25 from Target; \$100 from Wal-Mart; Hobby Lobby gave an additional 10% off craft supplies; still waiting to hear from Kmart, Meijer's

and South Shore, who will hopefully donate two bikes. Although we ask for the plastic eggs to be returned, we usually end up losing half the eggs. There will be prize tickets in some eggs. Crafts will be held on concrete by concession stand. Chrissy McConnell is speaking to someone about bringing animals.

·New business: Elkhart Environmental Division is holding Envirofest at Wellfield Botanic Gardens in Elkhart, Friday July 8<sup>th</sup>, 5:30-9 pm where nonprofits are able to set up for free. We will table the possibility of participating until next month.

·The DNR central office in Indianapolis has made a color brochure for Spring House. We are looking into printing the brochure for availability at the Nature Center although we may edit it.

·Elections will be held at this meeting.

·Kathy motioned to adjourn, and Marie seconds with all in favor. 6:50pm

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### **Annual Membership Meeting**

·Meeting brought to order by John at 7:06 pm

·We held a brief introduction of those in attendance.

· Some of the topics to be discussed tonight: Struggles with attendance, what programs and activities to keep, and whether or not to keep meetings on Tuesdays.

·A brief synopsis of operation: We need approximately \$900 per year to remain solvent and usually have 30-60 members. Currently, we have 32 members. Some monies are marked for: Mangus Memorial Fund, to landscape the area around the memorial plaque which will be completed this year; Speaker Fund to pay them for their time and trouble; Wetland Trail Fund for maintenance and boardwalk construction; etc.

·The Friends decided that the events to focus on this year will be Halloween, Easter, Winter in July, and Prairie Harvest Weekend.

·The Friends agreed that workdays accomplish a lot, and usually only cost the food we provide. Tim says there are plenty of jobs around the park to be done if the group decides to focus on workdays.

·Wetland Trail is a funding and project priority this year: We need approximately \$5000, some of which is already appropriated, to complete the planned boardwalks. Tim estimates that 2-3 workdays will be needed to complete the gravel on the trail.

· The Friends agreed to continue supporting Nature Center activities as needed.

·Discussions and ideas on attracting new members: Marie suggested ramping up outreach to the community with events like Hoosier River Watch. Marie, Melody, and John will schedule these water

tests on the Nature Center schedule of events, so that park patrons are aware that they can participate. Kay Laney suggested the use of speaker topics that have traditionally brought large crowds such as birds. Storytellers are a good idea but a little too expensive. Anna says attracting younger members for future workdays, etc. is very important. She suggests a volleyball or basketball tournament for this purpose. Linda Matzat suggests coordinating with scout groups and church groups for service projects. Kathy suggests hosting one workday a month and soliciting volunteers from the campground. This could be used in conjunction with the Hoosier Quest program. According to Tim, only a very small percentages of patrons utilize the NC and its programs. Linda brought up a "Barn Again" workshop that she has attended in the past with speakers on repairing old barns and sponsored by a church, and maybe we could do a similar type of thing. Marci suggested hosting more programs by Conservation Officers, i.e. Hunter's Education, Boating Safety, etc. where we provide refreshments and ask for a donation. An idea of a dog training workshop was mentioned. Dave Laney and Kay suggested a tour of JFNew some time. They brought up the question of changing the meeting time or holding it offsite once in awhile. Since the decision of changing the meeting time must be made at this meeting and no decision was made, the meetings will continue at the same time, but may be offsite with plenty of notice.

· The Friends acknowledged that many of our accomplishments have been made possible in large by corporations like JFNew, Audubon Society, and Bosch.

· The Friends acknowledge of Melody's great work on the newsletter. She volunteered to send out emails about anything anytime.

·The Friends will host a cookout at the June meeting this year.

·Casting the votes: The general membership elects the board members, and then the board elects the officers. The terms of Melody, Marie, Kathy, and Chrissy are up this year. Marie and Melody will run again along with Linda and Anna. Instead of voting for four positions when four people are running, Marci moves to approve the four as board members, and Kathy seconds with all in favor. The Laney's will take over Linda's position of lining up speakers. Linda is acknowledged for her great efforts in this position since the group's beginning.

·Melody moves to adjourn, and Marci seconds with all in favor.

·Brett Peters will be speaking next month about river ecology.

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### **Board Meeting for Elections**

Nominations for President: John

For VP: Melody

For Treasurer: Linda

For Secretary: Marci

All are in favor of these positions.

Committee Chairs:

Marie: Membership

Laney's: Speakers

Kreuger's: Egg Hunt

Marie will consider coordinating Halloween.

Melody: Newsletter