

## **Friends of the Wapsi River Center – Minutes**

**Thursday, February, 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

**7:00 P.M. – Gander Mountain**

**Present:** Carol Rogers, KJ Rebarcak, Mike Granger, Dave Murcia, Jessica Steines, Jim and Julie Ross, Bob Bryant and Erma Wiszmann.

**Minutes:** Approval Moved by Dave Murcia, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Carol Rogers. Motion Carried.

**Treasurer's report:** Checkbook Balance \$6,741.53. Have \$60.00 more for the Wala Memorial for a total of \$980.00. Have CD's in the Bank.

**Staff Report:** Jamie comes back April 1. Staff attended Scott County watershed Forum also a human resource class. Mike and Aaron attended a productivity session. Our seasonal staff will get a wage increase when they return. Dave reminded attendees of contact info for use when hosting.

The railing for the Wapsi Center Pond structure has been ordered. Need to remove hazardous trees at the Wapsi Center. We have to wait till the ground is frozen to do so. At the Red Tail Lodge the kitchen is complete. Dave bought new pots and pans on sale. At the Eco Center we'll replace the sink and faucet and install a dishwasher. Research is progressing on a microphone for the bird feeder. May be a baby monitor would work? The problem at the fish tank is not the switch but where the lights plug in moisture may be causing the fuse to trip. (Just unplug and plug in, then hit restart switch – above aquarium).

Please keep the door to the animal room shut. We have replaced some of the snake lights. Please continue to keep notes at the Volunteer desk. We have had 250 people attending for educational programs on site, and 230 offsite. 1940 people attended the kid's day for Bald Eagle Days 2012. Dave found a manual for all of the host info. Please continue with suggestions. Ediwild Planning is in progress. The theme is Environmental Stewardship. This will provide a broad range of activities. Lisa is working on the schedule. Winter Fun Day – we had 34 adults and 14 kids. (3 families stayed all day). Ingrid won the Chili cook off. We had a \$20 Donation. 11 Persons signed the book for the star party. For the hosts we have scavenger hunt sheets to hand out. Volunteers filled out background checks releases. Memorial ideas for the Wala Memorial were reviewed. Carol had contacted Jerry Wala and he thought that all of the ideas were good in particular closer handicapped parking at the center and a ramp. Dave will research and report. Bob Bryant reported on the planned Master Conservation Program. So far 21 persons have signed up. Possible plans are to have one day at the Wapsi Center, and Sherman Park. May go to big Sand Mound in Louisa County or stop by Bob Boock's. Host List was passed around.

**Clinton County** - Jessica reported Clinton County expect new staff member to be approved to start in April. They are ready for the field trip season. Will need to find out how and if work increases with the new building at Rock Creek. The Clinton County Supervisors have made a visit to get hands on view. Jessica provided the Friends a Teacher's newsletter. It includes Maquoketa, Elwood and Preston. The philosophy is "if there is one kid there we will cover it". A discussion was held on possible visits to Walden Cave (Maquoketa caves). May have to police for the spread of fungus to bats. The Rock Creek River Eco Tourist Center Construction is moving along. Hope to open the Store April 1<sup>st</sup>. The Nature gallery and Aquarium will take more time to complete.

**Next Meeting: Thursday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012 - 7:00 P.M. at the Wapsi River Center.**