

Friends of the Wapsi Center Minutes

Meeting – Thursday, July 19th, 2012 - 7:00 P.M.

Present: Lucia Dryanski, Mike Granger, Carol Rogers, Jerry Wala, Warren Wiese, Bill Robbins, Jill Schmidt, Jim Ross and Erma Wiszmann. (Dave Murcia was at a meeting with his daughters)

Approval of minutes: Minutes approved with correction as Jill was listed twice on the attendance list.

Treasurer's Report: \$7,318.58 checkbook balance. All checks are in for Ediwild. Around \$200.00 remains for that activity. We have CD's. Have a donation from the Bettendorf Public Library – Creatures of the Night program. Have a membership for Mark and Lisa Cleve. Pop money was turned in over to be deposited. Need a service call about the pop machine – water bottles not working.

Staff Report: Dave Murcia has held another interview for an assistant naturalist and attended a Nahant Board Meeting. Staff Development done using kayaks from the Water Treatment plant on Concord, down the Mississippi hugging the shore. Encountered dead fish. Raccoons should eat them. We saw some barge traffic. Ended at Buffalo Shores. Pond restoration pit toilet to be shipped by August 1st. The dock will be placed. We need rain for the pond. A burn ban is in effect. The ban is also in several other counties. The Frog Warts theatrical camp is in its second week. Wapsi Staff have helped with archery canoeing and kayaking. Our fire extinguishers and vehicles are all up to date. In this heat please leave the reptile room doors open. You know it is too hot when the snakes lay in their water bowls. In June were very busy. We had 15 groups here at the center and worked with 14 group's offsite. Ediwild had 24 teachers. The theme was environmental stewardship. They were impressed with the Rock Creek nature Center. 30 students participated in the Hunter Safety. Raccoon hunting with dogs, tracking and treeing are some of the activities they did. Also did archery, sling shots and atlatis. Meals were provided by Pheasants Forever. We are doing a paddling event every Thursday of the month. Sign-ups are required - we do canoes first followed by Kayaks. Lucia brought a Friends of the Wapsi Group hand out at the Watershed festival, also a nice poster. This was at the Farmer's Market. A Host manual has been created. Monsignor Menke Observatory open house is on July 21st, 2012. Jupiter and Saturn should make a great show. We are working on the Newsletter. Discussed possible work day in August or September if it is not too hot. There is weeding and mulching to be done. The gift shop needs to be re-stocked. We are looking to schedule Ecology Day in October. Usually the Ecology day is in coordination with the Eastern Iowa Star Party. For show and tell Mike passed around a trilobite he found embedded in a rock on the road. Clinton County reports their funding is complete for finishing out their exhibit room. They are working on balance of lights/temperature/PH and etc. Also a quarantine tank has been set up to put new fish in for a while. The Coast Guard rules do not allow a charge for our use of the Blue Heron. County doesn't want to do commercial so cruise is free now but only for one hour. Jessica is trying to start a Friends group for the Rock Creek Center. The Blue Heron is booked into August. If they don't want to charge a fee, they can accept donations. The WREN will feature items on the Canada Anemone and the False Map Turtle. Lucia and Bill wish to hold a fall meeting at their House. Lucia questioned if the friends support her pursuit of the Grant she started. It was agreed. Also, we discussed Lucia consulting the Wapsi Center to plan future agendas as our newly elected president.

Next Meeting is August 16th at the Wapsi Center at 7:00 P.M.