

## **Friends of the Wapsi Center Meeting July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016 – Wapsi Center 6:00 P.M.**

**Present:** Carol Rogers, Dave Murcia, Ingrid Bogdanowicz, Bill Robbins, Lucia Dryanski and Erma Wiszmann.

**Minutes:** Amended as Erma Wiszmann in attendance, also Corrections of Date of Meeting to June 16<sup>th</sup>. Carol moved to have the June minutes with corrections be approved. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bill. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** \$3951.75 in the checking account – have two CD's.

**Staff Report:** Mike absent due to being stung by wasp. Variety of wasp unknown. Pollinator conference attended and assisted by Wapsi Staff. Erma and Carol attended the Friday Sessions. The entire conference was well attended. Classes were held the first day. The second day attendees visited a variety of targeted sites. Needed 2 buses there due to number of participants. Sites visited included Stockton, and the Wapsi Center which was the last site visited. We only had about twenty minutes to visit Wapsi Center. Attendees wished there had been more time. A suggestion for next year is to target youth. Our intern Christian will finish on the 5<sup>th</sup> of August. His project of Aquaponics planting system is doing well. He has found frogs and tadpoles in it. He has planted strawberries, chives and kale. We will pick and choose what can grow next year. Hope to do a year round garden next year with a proper aquatic exhibit. Our staff have been asked to help with a county roadside vegetation survey. Lee Searels is directing. Money from the Gift Sales and Pop money was turned over to the Treasurer. Report on the raised garden bed: Deer aren't able to reach in. We are working on a composting bin. The new office plans are finished. County will sandblast the flag pole. The new office building will be 2 stories with a basement. The outside of the building will be maintenance free. The West Lake park crew will dismantle the old pump house. We hoped to be moved into the new office building by the fall. The West Lake personnel suggested we update the water lines as well as the electric lines. The check for the June 24<sup>th</sup> scholarship for Nahant's summer camp has been sent. A Facility assessment is being made to determine if the existing facilities accommodate our programs as well as other county's facility use. The big pond is being evaluated and a liner hopefully will be used so that the pond will hold water. We have a new "Ask the Naturalist box" in the lobby - the Reception person or visitors can fill out a questionnaire and place it in the box. Staff will review and respond to the questions. June was very busy. We had 305 participants on site, and 623 participants offsite. Our calendar of coming events will include Kayaking, Composting, paint by nature and a Star Party. Our bees are doing well and making honey. Lucia reported the Wala plaque has been ordered. Dottie's birth is October 20<sup>th</sup>. Plan to do something in recognition. No one of our Wapsi Friends group was able to attend the Pioneer Village friend's group potluck. Rich and Rhonda Miller hosted last weekend. It was suggested that Mark Rudolf at the North Scott Press help publicize the need for more members for the Friends of the Wapsi Group. It has been learned that Polk County is planning a new Nature Center. Rich Leopold dropped by when Carol Rogers was hosting. Planning ahead for our annual workday. A suggestion was made that there will be training sessions held twice a year to help recruit friends members. Carol suggested the Membership form be included each time the minutes are mailed. Suggested also the form be included in the WREN both Web copy and Paper copy.

**The Next friends meeting is the 18<sup>th</sup> of August here at the Wapsi River Center – 6:30 P.M.** Miscellaneous discussion was held about making objects of clay to see in our gift shop. Also suggested we hold a class to be held regarding the use of Clay.

Officer election delayed from last month due to poor attendance was held:

Carol nominated Jim Ross as President (Lucia 2<sup>nd</sup> – Motion Carried).

Carol Nominated Bill Robbins as Treasurer (Erma 2<sup>nd</sup> – Motion Carried).

Erma nominated Lucia as Secretary (Carol 2<sup>nd</sup> – Motion carried).

Lucia Nominated Ingrid as Vice President (Erma 2<sup>nd</sup> – Motion Carried).

Lucia Moved that the Future Friends Meetings Start at 6:30 P.M. – 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bill – Motion Carried.

The Friends have a request from the Interfaith Organization to purchase an ad in their annual publication. Erma moved the Friends pay \$315 to purchase an ad in their annual publication. The ad will include the Center's hours and Web Links. The 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ingrid - Motion carried.

Dave moved that although Erma and Carol are no longer Board officers to still attend meetings and participate in activities. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Attendees – motion Carried.

**Next Meeting: 6:30 P.M. – August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – Wapsi River Center.**