

Friends of the Wapsi Meeting

Nov 11, 2016

Present: Jim Ross, Joy Sheeley, Julie Ross, Carol Rogers, Erma Wiseman, Lucia Dryanski, Emily Davis-Hoffman, Jerry Hoffman, Ingrid Bogdanowicz, Bill Robbins, Emily Santiago.

Approval of Minutes: Erma moved to approve as sent, Julie seconded, motion passed.

Treasurer Report: (I forgot to write down the amounts!)

Staff Report (Emily):

- 1) **Staff:** all 5 staff attended Fall IAN conference in Floyd Co. Kayaked on Shell Rock River. Had session on geocaching, and may do more with this in programming. Sean (caretaker) “laid off” until Feb. or March, but still available for emergencies and will still deal with rentals and plowing. New intern (Name?___) starts after Thanksgiving; non-traditional student who was a seasonal at West Lake. 4 new Friends members & 2 membership renewals.
- 2) **Grounds:** New office is arriving on 11/22/16; continue with installation of erosion control water bar.
- 3) **Facilities:** New office furniture ordered; dorm MOR submitted to IADNR
- 4) **Education:** Environmental Ed program/facility assessment continues. In Oct had 9 groups (336 individuals) at Wapsi, and 4 groups (97 individuals) off-site. Reviewed upcoming program offerings. Still waiting to hear about possible film date for “Iowa Outdoors.” Group suggested that Winter Fun Day would be a good time, if poss. ***Involvement of Friends Members more than doubled this past fiscal year).

Old Business: Wala plaque dedication will take place at Winter Fun Day. Ecology Day lunch reimbursement—Bill will write check to Scott Co Conservation Board. Snapple invoice has been paid; Bill will get address changed for future invoices.

New Business:

--Still need volunteers for Bald Eagle Days (Jan 6-8). Lucia to re-vamp Friends Poster.

--Emily working on **new Friends brochure**, and presented suggestions for **new Friends Logo**. Voted on logo (Lucia moved, Jerry 2nd—motion passed) with the “Inc.” to be dropped.

--Voted on **new membership levels:** \$10 / \$20 / \$30; (Carol moved, Erma 2nd, motion passed). Voted to send a mailing with an envelope annually for membership dues (Erma moved, Bill 2nd, motion passed). Also add a **Members Survey**, asking about level of involvement. e.g, I want to: contribute money / attend monthly Friends meetings / Host Wapsi Center / assist with events / participate in volunteer workdays / other. Also, in an effort to go greener: I wish to receive Friends Mailings by US mail / by e-mail with space for e-mail address. Also discussed collecting dues at annual meeting, and then sending mailing to those who don't attend, to save on postage.

-- Idea of members t-shirts, vests, etc. Julie will look into possibilities/costs on-line and bring to Jan mtg. Began discussion of fundraising/activity ideas, including Trivia night, 5K “Walk for Wildlife.” Will discuss next month.

--Lots of spider webs in the Center. Could use a new vacuum cleaner with attachments for cleaning. Moved to fund new vacuum up to \$250 (Carol moved, Joy 2nd, motion passed). Julie will order on-line.

No December meeting.

Next meeting: January 19th, 2017 ~
6:30 P.M. ~ 350 Grille in Eldridge
(Attached to Happy Joes, on LeClaire Rd)