

Friends of the Wapsi Center Meeting

2/16/17

Present: Ingrid Bogdanowicz, Erma Wiszmann, Jim Ross, Carol Rogers, Rick Meyer, Sheri Meyer, Joy Sheeley, Tom Schwanke, Julie Ross, Bill Robbins, Lucia Dryanski, Emily Santiago.

Approval of Minutes: Approved with correction.

Treasurer's Report: Balance is \$9,343.34 (including 2 certificates). Pop \$, gift shop \$ & donations to Bill. 4 new memberships.

Staff Report:

Staff: Sean (caretaker) started his season early Feb. (phone# 563-210-4362). Emily attended Iowa Conservation Education Coalition program alignment meeting in Guthrie City, IA, re: Next Gen Science Standards. Dave was interviewed on KALA radio (St. Ambrose station) re: Wapsi Center and current environmental issues.

Grounds: Road Project-2 culverts have been replaced, one to go. Road will be closed for 2-3 week periods during the summer. Weekends that will be affected have been blocked off the volunteer host list.

Facilities: New office gutters, paint, carpet complete, furniture arrived, awaiting IT to transition computers early March. Dorm MOR submitted to IA DNR.

Education: Draft of environmental ed program/facility assessment has been given to staff (27 pages). Raptor mounts are underway. Kent Reedy (who did our bald eagle) is volunteering his time (only cost will be materials). Jan had 7 groups (336 people) at the Wapsi Center, and 7 groups (2550 people, including Bald Eagle Days) offsite. Tom S. is leading volunteer effort to build 2 insect hotels (see new business for more). Dave submitted request for 2 packages of bees (one for Wapsi and one for West Lake) and flats of mildweek for spring plantings.

Old Business:

Friends Swag: Julie brought T-shirt prototypes from Zazzle site, with our new Friends' Group logo. She's still looking into other options, including a local one. Will share the Zazzle link with us to check out.

Fundraising Committee: Discussed more ideas. Trivia; combine with Nahant & Pioneer Village for bigger event. Might want to do fundraising for a specific project, i.e., second bird enclosure (\$1400 -ish?).

Friends Overnight?

Bug Hotel: Change in location of Friends'-sponsored bug hotel. Considering putting it in the prairie. Collection of materials, including elderberry stems (hollow out), pine cones (variety), sticks, straw/hay bundles.

New Business:

Thank You: to friends for help at Bald Eagle Days, Winter Fun Day support, & Wala plaque acquisition (dedicated at Winter Fun Day). And for donations/memberships: Bebb, Hawkinson, Stepaniak.

Request for Funding: Tom S. will build insect hotels, requesting funding for tool rental and supplies. Julie moved to fund up to \$250 for this, Erma 2nd, motion passed. Tom will purchase the supplies and submit receipts to Bill for reimbursement.

Save the Date: April 22, 2017 Earth Day. Wapsi will host a volunteer workday in the morning, and Climate Change presentation following. Workday will include doing plantings; Jim R. also wants to work on cleaning up the Swan Exhibit.

Motion to Adjourn made by Julie, 2nd by Erma, motion passed.

NEXT MEETING: March 16, 2017, 6:30 pm at the Wapsi Center.