

Friends of the Wapsi Center Minutes
Thursday, May 16, 2019
Wapsi River Environmental Education Center

Attendees: Naturalist Becky Baugh, Bill Robbins, Julie Ross, Jim Ross, Eliza Ross, Ingrid.

The treasurer's report was approved. The current bank balance is \$15,275.09. Bill noted \$85.00 from gift shop, 2 friend renewals, and \$7.80 in donations

Staff news: Two 4H AmeriCorps members started working at the Wapsi Center on May 16th. One internship will be for 300 hours and conclude in August. The second internship will last 900 hours and conclude in November. All staff members are certified in CPR. Brandy will be on vacation from 6/20-24/2019 and Dave will be gone from 6/8-16/2019.

Grounds: Group removed invasive species from the prairie. Work was funded by River Action.

Facilities: The dormitory will remain available for environmental education until June 1, when renovation work will begin.

Education: Last month 18 groups, including 1614 individuals, attended on-site programs. An additional 12 groups, including 637 individuals, participated in programming off-site.

The Eagle View Eco Center welcomed 17 visitors this month unrelated to programs. Bees are here and the Queen is active at the Eco Center hive.

Old Business: Night at the Menke is July 19th. There will be a raffle at 5:30 and viewing later in the evening. Eliza Ross and Jim Ross have volunteered to help with the Center that evening.

The group continued to discuss plans for the Sept. 14 Monarch Festival. We discussed last month's craft ideas and Julie Ross agreed to bring more ideas to the June 20th meeting. Paige donated monarch decorations to be used at the event. The group agreed to provide a taco bar for the event.

New Business:

The Friends agreed to sponsor the hognose snake at \$100 per year. The certificate of appreciation will be kept at the front desk.

Becky described an Echo-meter and tablet the County wanted to purchase and identified two types under consideration (Pro vs. Touch 2). Julie moved that the Friends purchase the equipment and that the Staff decide which one they want. Ingrid seconded the motion.

The Center is still in need of ice cream buckets, five gallon buckets, and toilet paper tubes.

Becky thanked hosts and program volunteers, as well as those who have renewed their memberships, made donations, or sponsored EcoCenter animals.

Schnucks E-Script has been updated.

Staff released 7 of 9 baby snapping turtles at West Lake. Two remain at the EcoCenter.

The Friends group will meet next at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 20th at the West Lake Park (Lake View Shelter) for the Annual Meeting.

Julie moved to adjourn and Ingrid seconded.