

## Friends of the Wapsi Center Annual Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 20, 2019

Lakeview Shelter, West Lake Park

**Attendees:** Naturalist Becky Baugh, Naturalist Mike Granger, Director Dave Murcia, Lizzie Murcia, Bill Robbins, Lucia Dryanski, Jim Ross, Julie Ross, Carol Rogers, Tom Schwake, Ingrid Bogdanowicz, and Jolinda Burr.

**Approval of Minutes:** May minutes were approved by Jim and seconded by Carol.

**Treasurer Report:** The current bank balance is \$15,187.33. Bill will record \$ from pop machine, donations box, gift shop & membership renewal checks.

### **Staff Report:**

#### Administration:

- Two 4-H AmeriCorps members started working at the Wapsi Center on May 16, 2019. One internship was filled by Alexis Azure and will be for 300 hours and conclude in August. The second internship was filled by Faith Henrichs and will last 900 hours and conclude in November.
- Wapsi staff submitted an application for a Full-time 4-H AmeriCorps position for the 2019-2020 year.
- The internship of Clarah, a Bettendorf High School student, ended.
- Becky completed the Scott County Leadership Summit.
- All staff members completed Mandatory Reporter Training. This is to possibly run summer or break camps at the Wapsi Center.
- AmeriCorps members Faith and Alexis attended Kayak School with the Iowa DNR.
- The Wapsi Center received a new tablet. They are looking into how to get Apps installed on the tablet.
- Brandi is on vacation from 6/20 – 6/24.

Grounds: Milkweed grant plantings was complete at the office. Nelson Land Management completed invasive species removal from the prairie. Since the Dorm will be under renovation, the plants around the dorm will be transplanted to the office beds.

Facilities: The dormitory renovation was scheduled to start on June 1<sup>st</sup>. The beds in the dorm were donated to Camp Liberty Girl Scout Camp. When the dorm renovation is complete, the garden beds around the building will be landscaped for pollinators. The MOR was submitted to the Iowa DNR. Well inspection by the Health Department was completed. Dorm septic inspection will start next week.

Education: Last month 24 groups, including 1323 individuals, attended on-site programs. An additional 13 groups, including 366 individuals, participated in programming off-site. This totals 1689 program participants for the month of May. Four programs were cancelled due to weather. All 2<sup>nd</sup> grade DCSD students completed backyard bird field trips at the Wapsi Center throughout April and May. They are scheduling pollinator field trips for the fall. The Summer WREN will be due out by July 1<sup>st</sup>. Program evaluations and comments, public programming, and animal care including animal enrichment programs are continuing to be aligned with NGSS/STEM. AmeriCorps orientation and training continues. Planning for a booth at the Mississippi Valley Fair continues. The Wapsi Center is partnering with the Iowa DNR for August 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> for a booth focusing on the Mississippi River Watershed.

**Old Business:** The group continued to discuss plans for the Sept. 14 Monarch Festival. Julie suggested contacting Rhonda Brady and the Ms. MariPosa Butterfly bus to see if she would attend the festival. Butterfly wings for a photo booth was suggested. The kid's activities will be planned for 9-11am and 1-3pm. A Taco Bar lunch will be provided by the Friends group from 11am-1pm. A flier for the event was finalized.

A Bat Workshop will occur at the Wapsi Center on June 29<sup>th</sup>. The Friends offered to supply S'more ingredients and hot dogs. The bonfire will be weather permitting. There will be a PowerPoint on bats, a bonfire dinner, build a bat box and a nighttime hike.

Night at the Menke will be on July 19<sup>th</sup> at the Wapsi River Center. Jim and Eliza Ross agreed to host the center during the event.

**New Business:** The Diet Dr. Pepper is not selling well from the pop machine. The Friends members decided to replace the Diet Dr. Pepper with Unsweet Tea. Becky agreed to order more pop and tea for the pop machine.

Becky described Wind Turbine classroom kits the Wapsi Center would like for their NGSS Wind Renewable Energy program. The kits are \$299 for 3 wind turbine models. Jim moved, Lucia seconded, and the group voted yes to purchase 2 of the Wind Turbine Kits for \$598 total. Six Multi-meters are also needed to go with the wind turbine models. The Multi-meters what were suggested are \$20 each. Lucia moved, Carol seconded, and the group voted yes to purchase 6 multi-meters at \$120 total.

Becky also described some resin skulls the center would like to go with some mammal furs in their fur kit. The center would like a Black Bear Skull for \$179, an American Badger Skull for \$75, a Striped Skunk Skull for \$70, and a Muskrat Skull for \$49. Julie moved, Jim seconded, and the group voted yes to purchasing the 4 skulls for \$373 total.

Officer election – Carol moved to keep the current officer positions for another year. The group agreed.

Officers for the 2019-2020 year include: President- Norm Nichols

Vice President – Carol Rogers (she will act as President until Norm returns.

Treasurer – Bill Robbins

Secretary – Joy Sheeley

Wapsi Staff thanked hosts and program volunteers, as well as those who have renewed their memberships, made donations, or sponsored Eco Center animals.

**Recognition:** There are 28 Friends Members currently, 31 non-member volunteers, and 4 high school or college interns.

Volunteer hours June 1, 2018 - May 31, 2019: 451.25 hours by members, 737.5 hours by non-members (including 599 hours from the 4 interns), for a TOTAL of 1188.75 hours!

Value @ \$25.43/volunteer hour = \$30,229.91

Bill Robbins attended the most meetings in the past year (10 out of 12)

Lucia Dryanski supported the most programs and events hosted by the Wapsi Center (6 programs)

Volunteer of the Year is Norm Nichols-hosted total of 29 shifts (129.5 hours) at the center.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, July 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the Wapsi River Center.