

Friends of the Wapsi Center Annual Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 18, 2019

Wapsi River Center – Eagle View Eco Center

Attendees: Naturalist Becky Baugh, Lucia Dryanski, Jim Ross, Julie Ross, Carol Rogers, Ingrid Bogdanowicz, and Jolinda Burr.

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

Treasurer Report: The current bank balance is \$15,462.26. Bill will record \$ from pop machine, donations box, gift shop & membership renewal checks. Bill also got a Debit card for the checking account. This will make online purchases a lot easier. Bill ordered the skulls. They are on back order. There were 2 membership renewals, 1 new Friends member – Lisa Woolridge, Jerry Wala funded the Monarch Butterfly Bus, \$25 in donations, and \$70 donated from the bat workshop.

Staff Report:

Administration:

- Becky graduated from the Scott County Leadership Summit.
- 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.
- The Quad Cities Women's Outdoor Club hosted their annual event at the Wapsi River Center. Staff conducted a few programs for them during the event.

Grounds: Vegetable garden and butterfly garden maintenance continues. Wapsi staff try to weed the gardens at least 20 minutes each morning. If hosting on Saturday, please weed the gardens.

Facilities: The dormitory renovation was scheduled to start on June 1st. We are still waiting for the dorm renovations to begin. The old pole barn door will be replaced. The MOR was submitted to the Iowa DNR.

Education: In June, 5 groups including 223 individuals, attended on-site programs. An additional 20 groups, including 1523 individuals, participated in programming off-site. This totals 1746 program participants for the month of June. Seven programs were cancelled. There was an additional 25 visitors to the Eco Center that weren't attending programs during the month of June. Planning for a booth at the Mississippi Valley Fair continues. The Wapsi Center is partnering with the Iowa DNR for August 1st-4th for a booth focusing on the Mississippi River Watershed. The booth is from 1pm-5pm each day in the Iowa Building. The Summer WREN is published. A link will be sent out to all friends members. See the Calendar of Events for July-September.

Old Business: Night at the Menke will be on July 19th at the Wapsi River Center. Jim and Eliza Ross agreed to host the center during the event.

The group continued to discuss plans for the Sept. 14 Monarch Festival. So far, 27kids and 35 adults have registered for the event. The kid's activities will be planned for 9-11am and 1-3pm. We will have a librarian from the Walcott Library reading books in our Reading Corner. Julie agreed to do 2 crafts and Lucia agreed to do 1 craft all associated with monarch butterflies. Some crafts and the story corner will be located in Red Tail Lodge. The menu for the Taco Bar lunch was finalized and will be provided by the Friends group from 11am-1pm. The food decided on will be venison, chicken, beans, cheese, lettuce, shells (hard and soft), sour cream, tomatoes, salsa, onions, guacamole, lemonade, and sun tea. The Taco Bar will be located out of the Kestrel Cabin. The Friends members decided on a limit of 100 people for the Taco Bar. It was also discussed to possibly add butterfly nets, Monarch books, and posters to the gift shop for purchase.

All officers who were elected during the Annual Meeting in June confirmed their positions. President – Norm Nichols (with conditions), Vice President – Carol Rogers, Treasurer – Bill Robbins, and Secretary – Joy Sheeley.

New Business: Becky agreed to order more pop and tea for the pop machine. She will order 4 cases of sweet tea (48 bottles), 2 cases of unsweet tea (24 bottles), 1 case of Dr. Pepper (24 bottles), 1 case of Root Beer (24 bottles), and 1 case of RC Cola (24 bottles).

There was old soda in the machine. The 7Up and Diet Dr. Pepper need to be emptied out and the bottles need to be recycled.

Becky described a Monarch Bio-Tent the center would like to be used during Monarch rearing season. The tent is 9'x9' and cost \$417.00. This tent would be set up on campus and would have milkweed and nectar plants inside the tent. Jim moved to purchase the Monarch Bio-Tent. Lucia seconded, and the group voted yes to purchasing the tent.

Becky also requested funding for 1-hour of a yoga/mindfulness instructor for \$60. Paige will be providing a Grounded in Nature program on Saturday, September 7th at 3:00 P.M. on the prairie. Allyson Knanishu, a yoga instructor from Yoga for Peace, LLC will be providing the yoga instruction for this class. Julie moved to fund Allyson, the yoga instructor, Lucia seconded, and the group voted yes.

Program assistance was requested for the Wild Edible Workshop on Saturday, August 10th at 10:00 A.M. and during the Monarch Festival on Saturday, September 14th from 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. Lucia agreed to help with the Wild Edible Workshop, and all agreed to help with the Monarch Festival.

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

Next Meeting: Thursday, August 15th at 6:30 p.m. at the Wapsi River Center.