

FRIENDS OF PANTHER CREEK STATE PARK
Board Meeting
1/20/2009
Staff House

The meeting began at 6:40 pm.

Present: John LeCroy, John Mitrik, Frank Oakberg, Dennis Zazueta, Tina LeBel, Michelle Mitrik, Sarah Eichelmann, Bill Andrews

Minutes: Minutes from the previous board meeting were read and approved. "Big Frog Mountain" start-up fee clarification requested.

Treasurer's report:

Deposits: \$ 480.00
 Payments: \$ 1087.18

Previous Checking balance: \$ 9,611.70
 Current Checking balance: \$ 9,004.52

Total Money Market: \$ 10,415.23

Motions:

Friends group will set aside \$1000 for initial funding for UT School of Architecture building fund to be distributed to the University of TN as needed motion made by Bill Andrews. Seconded by Frank Oakberg. Unanimous approval.

A motion was made and accepted for Tina to be the new secretary.

A motion was made to continue with the website and pay the upcoming fees.

Upcoming Dates:

8K race Saturday May 30th at 8:45 or 9:00

Junior Ranger Naturalist Camp June 15th – 19th 9:00 am – 1:30 pm

Old Business

Visitor's Center: UT is still going on with the project. The whole project covers the welcome center. Goals are to make it LEED certified (energy efficiency), remove restrooms and add some restrooms outdoors so they can always be accessed. Composting toilets are being considered and perhaps with no water usage along with using the current septic system. BioSun tanks so far are preferred. State will probably approve this design because they have used a composting system at Hiwasse/Ocoee state park. The beginning of the process would be UT doing the design (Ted Shelton is the architect). No state building projects are currently being considered due to the economic slump unless a building plan complete and local funds are provided then they would consider it. After discussions with UT, John L. asked to give UT seed money for upper section prototype construction for possible compostable toilets and meanwhile we could look into grant writing and fundraising.

Friends of Panther Creek State Park
The Park's Visitor's Center is located at 2010 Panther Creek Park Road, Morristown, TN 37814
(423) 423-587-7046; www.friendsofpanthercreek.org

The UT architect class will provide a cost analysis in 3-4 weeks. Professor French would like to start construction in about 3 weeks. Looking at material donation and we may consider to build forms for concrete mold. Research and design work first. Friends group will set aside \$1000 for initial funding for UT School of Architecture building fund to be distributed to the University of TN as needed motion made by Bill Andrews. Seconded by Frank Oakberg. Unanimous approval. The BioSun toilet representative has expressed a willingness to work with the UT school of architecture design. John LeCroy will investigate what components of the system is included in the \$12,000 fee.

Christmas at the Park: John M. counted 86 participants at the Christmas in the park program. Great reviews!

Solar Panels at the Pool: Cost would be \$15,000-17,000 for initial investment to get started with Big Frog Mountain (installation company). There are still some questions as to whether or not the pool will open next year based on state funding. This project is on hold for the Visitor's Center renovations.

Pool: State is committed to keeping the pool open by helping with funding for chemicals and lifeguards. New regulations will require 8 lifeguards this year. The pool will be open 5 days per week.

Junior Ranger Program: Money is left from Patagonia grant. The 2nd annual Junior Ranger camp for 10-14 year olds is on! The date is June 15th – 19th.

Volunteer Service Day: Jason will coordinate a volunteer day in February and/or March. February will be a trail cleanup day and Jamie will organize overlook plantings for Earth Day. If we receive another 17 bricks, we can host another brick laying day.

Bricks: We may need to consider modifying the brick brochure to promote funding for the next project.

Overlook: State ADA rep has brought a set of issues to Danny Young, county inspector, regarding making the platform handicap accessible. The state will bring in an independent architect to act as an ADA consultant and then we may need to adjust. John LeCroy has made some minor changes and protested some major changes.

Trout Lily Trail: Middle of next month, Brent should be finished. Rerouted part of the trail to get rid of a steep section and digging out rocks in a dangerous section. He will build a small platform over one section that is slippery when wet. 80% is complete.

Board Member Changes: Tina LeBel has agreed to be secretary starting with the next meeting. A motion was made and accepted for Tina to be the new secretary.

Logo Contest: This idea fell off the list but will be discussed more at the next meeting. Michelle and Sarah could talk to Walters State about helping. Time frame of March/April for contest discussed.

New Business

Website: A motion was made to continue with the website and pay the upcoming fees. Sheri can forward the bill to Dennis for payment.

Postcards: The group discussed sending postcards for notes of upcoming events or renewal reminders (Sheri's idea) especially for Friends members who have not given their email address. Tina has an idea for a postcard she would discuss with Sheri.

No Child Left Inside: John M. brought some information that was received from the state with an invitation for Friends groups to attend an outdoor educational conference. John M. will get more information and present at the next meeting.

8K Race: The date is Saturday May 30th at 8:45 or 9:00. Everyone needs to help think of some sponsors.

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Cost for sponsorship is \$300 and you get your name on the sign out at the front of the park as well as on the t-shirt. John L. volunteered to help with the race. Group discussed also having a 1 mile fun run for kids on the nature trail.

Summer Projects: Several ideas were tossed around including the following:

- Work then swim for free
- Extra park programs for kids
- Buy a brick and get a free night camping

John M. will talk with Jason about event type activities. National Trails Day in June(?) was one suggestion for special events.

Committee Reports:

The group decided that we should have committees only as they are needed other than the current membership and gift shop committees.

Grant Research – Park staff is working on some trail grants and visitor center grant work.

Next Meeting: March 3rd 6:30 pm at Tina's house (directions will follow).

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
John & Michelle Mitrik