

FRIENDS OF PANTHER CREEK STATE PARK
Board Meeting
7/14/2008
Smallman Shelter

The meeting began at 6:40 pm.

Present: John LeCroy, John Mitrik, Bonnie Oakberg, Dennis Zazueta, Bob Harriman, Darrel McGhee

Minutes: Minutes from the previous board meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer's report:

Deposits: \$ 5460.00
 Payments: \$ 3647.28

Previous Checking balance: \$ 8107.82
 Current Checking balance: \$ 9921.39

Total CDs: \$ 10,000 (due 9/9/08)

Note: There is a \$15 accounts analysis fee that we were charged and Dennis will look into this

Motions:

Upcoming Dates:

Friends Conference – Pickwick Landing State Park – October 17 – 19, 2008

Mr. Big Hands Card Social – September 6, 2008; 6:30 – 10:30 p.m.

Tennessee Smokies Baseball Game – August 23rd (interested call or email John M.)

Old Business

Brick Sales: Kiwanis visit The Darrel and John L. show is now ready for Lions & Rotary clubs. Bill to look into getting this scheduled. No news on these plans. An order will be placed in the next couple of weeks for about 30 bricks. NOTE: There are some board members who have yet to buy a brick.

Trail Race: Race was a success. Great job Dennis with help from new board member John Smyth. Dennis presented the results with total cash receipts of \$8355 and net cash profit of \$5115.74 which does not include \$1885 worth of donations.

Overlook: The panels are in process of being built. The students supplied a list of materials needed for the rest of the overlook (which they have now purchased). Park staff is working on steps according to architectures' design. We are waiting on design for walkway. John L. hopes to finish deck in September to October time frame.

Darrel presented a draft for a certificate for the students who worked on the project. John L. will get a list of these students. Darrel will also get some wording for a plaque to hang at UT. We will likely need two plaques for both College of Art (panels) and College of Architecture (deck). These will be given at the dedication for the

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overlook.

John M. suggested that we plant some trees around the park to offset the lumber used to construct the overlook. John L. suggested very mature trees as they have had trouble keeping some of the recent ones alive.

Card Social: Dennis has reserved the banquet room at the Ramada Inn. The group decided that the money raised from this fundraiser will be ear-marked for an interpretive display that will be in the newly renovated Visitor's Center. Dennis has some initial sponsors already and will get more. Dennis gave out cards to the board members present to give as invitations.

Friday night swim: Pool closing soon. We will wait until next year. By the way, thanks was given for shade being provided at the kids pool!

Junior Ranger Naturalist Camp: This camp was a great success. Parents loved it. The kids left with a message to take care of the park...plus the park got some work done (like trail maintenance, etc.). There were 22 kids at the camp (quite a few had to be turned away). The target age was 10-13. Jason has some pictures from the camp which he will get to Sheri for the website. John L. says we may have 2 camps next with one being for a slightly younger target age. If there is no grant next year, the Friends will need to help contribute to this.

Gift Shop Items: A logo contest was again discussed and decided to have a community wide event. More will be discussed at the next meeting. Darrel has been added to the Gift Shop Committee.

The bike bottles are here. The main part of the bottle is made of 60-70% post consumer recycled plastic. These will be on sale in the Visitor's Center for \$5 each. Also two versions of a hiking medallion were shown. An order will be placed for 50 medallions.

It was suggested that we take pictures of items in the gift shop and make a poster that will be posted around the park. Darrel also suggested sweatshirts instead of t-shirts based on prior experience. There was also a suggestion to have a tree donation at the gift shop.

Pool Solar Panels: John L. has contacted a new company (Big Frog Mountain) for this project. John L. also has some information on grants that may be applicable for this project.

Letter: Darrel will follow-up on the thank you letter for Mr. Fyke.

Calling Tree: John M. suggested that Sheri give the board members a list with phone numbers of the board and in case of an emergency (i.e. park closing), the board can divide up a list of Friends members to call.

Soccer League: Soccer league gave another donation. Dennis passed along the name of the contact to Sheri to be corporate members.

Park Staff: Board discussed having a nice dinner for the park staff at Christmas. Bob also said that other parks have the staff make out a wish list of things they need for their jobs. The board suggested maybe we do both. John L. said he would be OK to have the dinner during work time so more of the staff will attend. This will likely be in the 1st 2 weeks of December.

David McCoy Monument: John L. talked to Lynne. The plan is to make a stone walkway to the front of the monument.

New Business

Friends Emphasis: John M. stated that he would like to get some focus on increased participation in the Friends group. One was that Bonnie suggested was to put the meeting dates in the newspaper. The group

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agreed and John M. will get this information to Jan when she submits the programs. It was also suggested that we include the meeting minutes on the website.

Another way is to have Friends meetings/social gatherings like cookouts, etc. possibly once per quarter.

Board Social: John M. also suggested that we have a board social where we can gather and get to know each other like we did for the AmeriCorps dinner. John L. volunteered his house. John L. will let us know a date.

Friends' Conference: The next conference is Oct. 17-19 at Pickwick Landing State Park. In the past, the Friends group has agreed to pay for 3 nights of lodging. Bob suggested that we agree to pay for gas and they would cover the rooms. Group will think about these dates to decide if members will attend.

Friends Contract: John M. was sent a new contract with the state. Copies were given to the board present to review and discuss at the next meeting. This was a 5 year contract that comes up in December.

Committee Reports:

Membership – not discussed

Newsletter – not discussed

Marketing/Publicity – not discussed

Trails – not discussed

Fundraising – not discussed

Nominating – not discussed

Long Term and Land Acquisition – not discussed

Grant Research – not discussed

Next Meeting: Thursday, August 14nd at 6:30 pm at Smallman shelter (near overlook).

The meeting adjourned at 8:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
John Mitrik