

Friends of Pine Grove Furnace Board Meeting

Minutes for November 19th, 2016

Board in attendance: A. Weltman (chair), M. Soderberg (vice-chair), B. Breen (treasurer), J. Burleigh, S. Breen, S. Dodd, R. Shaw, B. Weiser, D. Weiser.

Park comments

- The new manager Mike Kutzmonich could not attend this meeting but will be able to do so next time.

Friends administration

- Board members are asked to complete the annual “conflict of interest” forms and give to Andre, who will collate and send as a single file to PPF.

Treasurer's report

- Our current balance is \$26,078 (a detailed report is available upon request). Grant reimbursement is expected very soon, which will add roughly \$35,000 to our account as we enter 2017. This will be the largest amount we've ever had in the bank, and opens possibilities for a range of good projects in 2017-2018.

Merchandise

- We are well stocked with items appropriate for the cold-weather season.
- Additional supply of slag pendants was recently donated for us to sell.

Firewood

- Cabin owners continue to donate local wood, often already bucked and split, for our sales at the Family Campground (a major source of Friends income). We are grateful for this ongoing support. Andre will send a thank you letter to a cabin owner on Leeper Farm Rd who recently allowed us to get a large amount of wood.
- [After this Board meeting, we had a “wood splitting party” so that the wood will have time to dry, and to get ahead of summer demand.]

Social media and advertising

- The Friend's Facebook page is very active. Thanks to Mary for keeping up with the content.
- Rob will draft our next newsletter, highlighting the recent success of the Mountain Creek Trail project.

Mountain Creek Trail project

- Installation of the 55-foot bridge across Mountain Creek with help from roughly two dozen volunteers, was a huge effort but was finished faster and easier than expected. Pending: minor trail re-routes to the ends of the bridge; steps which will be installed by a contractor using grant funds; cable to tree in case of severe flood impact; bolts to secure bridge to its concrete seats. Maintenance will handle all remaining bridge work.
- To satisfy grant requirements, we still need to create a public brochure (in cooperation with DCNR) and also we will hold a formal opening event with press release, expected for Earth Day 2017.
- Unknown person(s) installed a very nicely designed 10-foot wooden walkway along Mtn Creek Trail (near the Camp Thompson end). It has heavy wood components and an antiskid surface. This walkway is “overbuilt” for this rustic trail, and covers up perfectly satisfactory stepping stones recently installed by an experienced volunteer with our permission as part of the overall trail project. The park will try to identify the source of this extra walkway, which is thoughtful but not needed, and have them remove it. Perhaps it could find a useful home on another trail, for example the blue trail near Camp Michaux.

Fall Furnace Fest 2016 (October 15-16)

- The Board briefly reviewed Fall Fest 2016 which was our largest attendance ever. Comments will be archived for review when we're planning for next year. Date for next fest is October 21-22, 2017.
- A few Silent Auction items still need to be picked up – it is a problem to leave them for a long time in the park office. One large auction item – a beverage refrigerator – did not sell during Fall Fest, so we will try to move it via Facebook.

Iron Run half-marathon and Charcoal Challenge 5k

- Registration will be set up on RunReg for the end of January.
- The Board discussed ways to make on-site registration smoother. We will move the start time for the 5k from 8 AM to 9 AM (while keeping the half-marathon at 7:30).
- Timing process was not smooth in 2016, and after the race we learned of errors (many of which were verified) due to racer complaints. We will explore other options such as Timber Hill Tech for 2017.

Franklin County Gov't Employee Health and Wellness Fair (October 28)

• Thanks to Andre, Josh, and Steve for attending. We did not sell many items, but we had lots of valuable interaction with Franklin County residents. This event, similar to one held earlier in 2016 in Gettysburg, is worth repeating in future years.

Halloween contests at park campground (October 29)

• Lea (park EE) invited Andre to assist as a judge at two events for holiday campers (best children's costume, and best campsite decoration). The Friends donated various items as prizes.

PPFF Annual Retreat

• Thanks to Mary and Rob for attending. They report it was a valuable learning opportunity.
• PPFF is holding a contest for anti-graffiti posters by school children.

Mansion summer camp in 2017 and fundraiser races (April 30, 3017)

• The Board agreed with supporting the Ironmaster's Mansion with \$1000 for their summer camp, and \$1000 for their fundraiser races. We will again staff a water station during their races, at Laurel Lake boat ramp.

Key dates for 2017:

- Earth Day – Saturday April 22
- Woodsy Owl weekend – Friends lunch on Saturday May 20
- Iron Run – June 10 (2nd Saturday in June)
- National Public Lands Day – Saturday Sept 30
- Fall Fest – Oct 21-22 (3rd full weekend of October)

NEXT BOARD MEETING January 14, 2017.