

**MINUTES-FRIENDS OF DONALD PARK, INC. MONTHLY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
08/19/08**

IN ATTENDANCE: Board: Mary Feldt, Pat Hitchcock, Matt Marty, Roger Parr, Ron Rassner, Dave Schreiber, Donna Thomas. Guest: Bob Birmingham. Recording Secretary B. Hartman

Meeting called to order by D. Schreiber: 6:35 P.M.

REVIEW AGENDA: Motion by R. Parr/R. Rassner to approve agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

MINUTES: Motion by R. Rassner/R. Parr to approve July 7, 2008 meeting minutes as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: Ron Rassner presented Pat Hitchcock with a framed picture from Al Colvin where Pat was featured on the cover of August's issue of Lifestyle Magazine.

APPEARANCES: Guest Bob Birmingham attended the meeting to report on the progress of the grant activity and archeological work that he has been doing for the last six months. Bob and the volunteers are wrapping up the work and beginning to prepare the excavation site for future educational purposes. Bob reported the project was very unique and tremendously successful and commended FoDP on the incredible number of volunteers working with him. The excavation uncovered findings of a preserved ancient Indian site at Pop's Knoll and a cabin site that dates back to the 1840's where the Marty and Foye families were the first settlers. The excavation process is finished and Bob will be writing a final report with an expected completion in the next couple of weeks. The volunteers and Bob will now clean up the site, create a berm to control erosion and stabilize the cabin foundation. Signage will be put up for visitors and future educational tools. Future work could be the ancient Indian site at Pop's Knoll as the clovis findings make it an unique project and Bob recommended it be put on the National Register to protect it. Bob will be volunteering his work this fall in the park.

REPORTS

SECRETARY REPORT: No Report

TREASURER'S REPORT: In Ted Bailey's absence he sent his treasurer's report. Motion by R. Rassner/M. Marty to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion carried unanimously.

PRESIDENT: D. Schreiber:

Action Items:

** Donald Rock Trail Bridge project: The County is moving ahead on the Bridge projects. Roger and Ted have been clearing the sites. Concerns were addressed regarding the changes recommended in the direction of trails from the initial plans by DCP. Chris James, Dick Black and Roger Parr plan to meet the week of August 18th to hopefully agree on the direction of the trails. Ron and Dave met with Sara Kwitek regarding the Scheidegger Grant progress. The grant is moving forward and the bridges will happen this year.

ADMINISTRATIVE POSITION REPORT: B. Hartman reported approximately the same amount of hours during the month of July. Barb continues to coordinate work plans with volunteers and has met with Donna Thomas on the database transfer. Once the IT support person reviews the data base, Barb will meet with him. Going forward Barb will begin to enter members and support the data base.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ADMINISTRATION, BUDGET, FINANCE, AND PLANNING - No Report

MEMBERSHIP/COMMUNICATIONS: Donna reported that the membership is at approximately 135. There was a suggestion to pursue contacting the Mt. Horeb business community to solicit additional interest to build our membership.

NEWSLETTER: A mid-October newsletter is in the works with suggested articles featuring a re-cap of the Father's Day Picnic, Donald Rock Trail, History of the Rock, Equestrian Trails and bridges and Bob Birmingham's report. The history group will put together an article on the excavation site. Donna will be requesting photos for the newsletter. Mary Feldt suggested we develop a list of outside interest groups to mail to as a way of getting more volunteers and connections to advertise Donald Park. Ron Rassner will put together a list of groups and solicit names from Board Members.

WEBSITE: Donna Thomas remarked in a recent visit to the website that some updates needed to be made.

Action Items:

** Going forward Barb will check the website on a regular basis and report to Megan any updates and calendar events that need to be added. Roger will be following up on getting the park maps updated.

VOLUNTEER COORDINATION: P. Hitchcock

Volunteers continue to clear invasives from Sutter Drive, Pop's Knoll and prairies. Wayne Pauly worked with volunteers on the supporting and repairing the trails due to the washing from June rains.

NATURAL AREAS: P. Hitchcock:

The Mt. Vernon Rock project has been cancelled as Chris James said it was too technical and complicated for an Eagle Scout project. DCP staff is responsible for this type of project. Wayne Pauly also requested that we put the equestrian entrance projects on hold.

Action Items:

** The excessive rain in June has put trail upkeep behind and Wayne has brought in tracks that we can embed in the trails for support and to control the washing. That project is next on the agenda.

EQUESTRIAN TRAILS: R. Parr

Roger and Ted have done a lot of work on trail upkeep and preparing for the bridge project.

Action Items:

** Next on the agenda is to work with Dick Black on signage. Starting in September Horse Trail work dates will be on Saturday.

EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION: M. Marty:

Matt Marty reported that the work on the cabin excavation is wrapping up. Dave Cheney created a topographical map and additional points will be added and it will be forwarded to DCP for printing. A berm will be built along the south side of the basement foundation to protect it from erosion. The basement wall will be reinforced and fencing will be put up around the site. The plan is to move the Spring trail to go along the back of the cabin site. Signs will be installed, but will consult with the county for approval to start work.

Action Items:

** The committee will be pursuing another grant from the Mt. Horeb Community Foundation and Mike Coffey has volunteered to write the grant.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Scheidegger Grant Update - Dave and Ron met with Sara Kwitek and DCP agreed the park image proposal would fit into the grant requirements. Additional funds would need to be raised for the materials. The grant would cover one-half of the funding, one-fourth from FoDP and one-fourth from another source.

Action Items:

Ron distributed the proposal draft from Tom Woods. It was suggested that perhaps we have a planning retreat with Tom Woods and select volunteers from various interest groups to plan, design and implement the project.

** Ron will identify the various groups and solicit board members for names associated with each group to develop stakeholder group to work on the project.

Membership and Volunteer Data update - Barb and Donna met to discuss the transfer of data. The file has been sent to Barb and she has begun to familiarize herself with the program. Barb will meet with the IT support person once the file is cleaned up.

** History Subcommittee event - Sunday, October 26 is the date set for the History Appreciation Event. It will be held at the Mt. Horeb Community Center and Bob Birmingham has been invited to be the guest speaker. Pie and ice cream will be served. An invitation will be extended to the Board, Staff, historical committee and all the local people interviewed.

** November 18 meeting with DCP - The September 19th board meeting will be designated to prepare for the November meeting with DCP. We will meet at Pat's and tour the area to be developed west of Sutter Road. The meeting will convene at the Bunk House where we will review and discuss the Master Plan.

** Park signage needs - Brian Berkin is working on park signage.

** Cell tower proposal - Ron Rassner constructed a letter to Ramaker & Associates, the engineering firm connected with the construction of the cell tower. The letter is in response to an invitation to comment on the construction of the cell tower. Our position is to protect the natural and visual quality of the park. Dave will contact Ramaker to state our position on the construction of the tower.

NEW BUSINESS:

Action Items:

** Camille Zaroni, Natural Resource Foundation Representative. - Pat will invite Camille September meeting to talk to us to determine if she can be any assistance to us in obtaining grants.

** Copies of the Master Plan will be available for all Board members to discuss before meeting with DCP in November.

REVIEW AND APPROVE BILLS:

Matt Marty submitted Bob Birmingham's final bill of \$2,620. Other miscellaneous expenses were discussed. Motion by R. Parr/M. Marty to approve bills totaling \$3,278.44. Motion carried unanimously.

NEXT BOARD MEETING:

Tuesday, September 16, 2008 6:30 p.m. Pat Hitchcock's/Bunkhouse

Suggested Agenda Items:

Master Plan Discussion/Review
Historical Appreciation Event - Matt/Pat
Cell Tower Update
Scheidegger Funds
Bridge Update
Summer Intern Position

ADJOURN:

Motion by P. Hitchcock/R. Parr to adjourn by unanimous consent at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Barb Hartman, Recording Secretary