

Friends of Hashawha and Bear Branch (FHBB)
FINAL Meeting Minutes
February 3, 2022, 7pm
via Google Meets
friendshbb@gmail.com

Attendees:

Michelle Scott (Chairperson)
Nicole Bowman (Vice Chairperson)
Chris Markle (Treasurer)
Sarah Franz (Secretary)
Alison Malachowski
Will Horning
Harold Scott
Rachel Hall
Diana Roman
David Parker
Kristin Darby
Dawn Harry (Bear Branch Nature Center)

The meeting was held virtually, and a link was sent to all members prior to the meeting.

1. Call to order, welcome, introductions, roll call.
2. A motion was passed to approve the minutes of the January 7, 2022 meeting.
3. Updates:
 - a. Treasurer - Chris Markle
 - i. There is currently a little over \$800 from donations, animal adoptions, and syrup sales.
 - b. Park Operations - Dawn Harry
 - i. A new paving project for all parking lots and driveways will be going out to bid soon. Construction may interfere with the adult egg hunt event.
 - ii. A new pavilion to replace the existing one and relocate it closer to the parking lot is scheduled for the July/August 2022 timeframe. The new pavilion can also be used as an event space for parties and weddings as it will have electricity and professional landscaping. To offset the pavilion, a part of the plot will be reforested so there is the opportunity for fall planting and landscaping projects.
 - c. Nature Center - Dawn Harry
 - i. Updated COVID policy – mask requirements are easing up, but virtual meetings are still required until March.
 - ii. A new volunteer, Karen, and new intern, Summer, have joined the Bear Branch team.
 - iii. Have received some new animal ambassadors and plan to reopen the insect room as an invertebrate room.
 - iv. Dawn provided a medical status of the birds. All are doing well.

- v. Chris and Dawn discussed the need to determine how Dawn and Jenna can access FHBB funds that are earmarked for animal care. The decision was for Chris to check with the bank to inquire about a debit or credit card that can be in Dawn's name.
 - vi. Ongoing improvement projects: Working on woodland exhibit to incorporate new taxidermy displays. Will be creating a crawl space under box turtle habitat for kids to "join" the turtles.
 - vii. Master naturalist 2022 applications went out today via the University of Maryland website. Applicants have started coming in and interviews are coming up in March.
- d. Update from the Friends of Carroll Recreation and Parks (CRP) Jan. 25 meeting - Chris Markle
- i. If a weather event closes schools or events, virtual events are also cancelled as well as use of the CRP property. The group agreed this did not make sense and will need to get clarification on this.
 - ii. County lawyers are concerned there is not enough oversight over councils so they will be creating and mandating additional guidance.
 - iii. County schools are requesting their cut-off date occurs prior to non-school groups for use of property or facilities. This may or may not affect Bear Branch Nature Center or Hashawha.
- e. Events team Jan. 27 meeting - Nicole Bowman
- i. Primarily discussed the Maple Sugarin' and Adult Egg Hunt events, as well as potential future events. The team came up with a lot of ideas for the egg hunt and future events to grow outreach and park impact.
- f. Maple Sugarin' (March 5 and 6) update - Nicole Bowman
- i. FHBB will coordinate the hikes – 4 per day on the hour with potential to schedule extra hikes on the half hour.
 - ii. Activity bags – lots of items to include for kids. \$2 each for sale at the syrup table.
 - iii. Memberships for sale at syrup table.
 - iv. Syrup sale.
 - v. Jenna will have the birds out for meet and greets with visitors.
 - vi. We will hold the pancake breakfast on Sunday only, 10-2pm. There will be a to-go option available on request.
 - vii. Sunday volunteers will get a free pancake breakfast.
 - viii. Feb. 20th training for all volunteers. Interest emails will go out in the next week.
 - ix. Jeff Degitz (CPRP Director) indicated that park legacy funds cannot be used for syrup.
 - x. It was decided to purchase approximately \$1200 worth of syrup consisting of mostly candy and small containers.
 - xi. Part of the funds will come from the Bear Branch park operation budget. Dawn will purchase the syrup through her point of contact and FHBB will pay her back

from the sales. Remaining revenue from the sales will go directly to FHBB. The group agreed that FHBB will pay for no more than \$500 of syrup.

- g. Garden team update- Alison Malachowski
 - i. March 19th weeding event
 - ii. Taxidermy display – have artificial plants that can be used
- h. Volunteer outreach update - Michelle Scott
 - i. Interest email sent out to see who would like to volunteer for events or other programs/jobs.
 - ii. Suggested to reach out to Carroll County community college to get volunteers. Also suggested using the VolunteerMatch.com website.
- i. Social Media update - Michelle Scott
 - i. No updates, but Maggie appreciates having content ‘ready to go’ for social media postings.
- j. Logo update - Kristin Darby
 - i. Spoke with Trish at CRP and sent her draft logos, but she would not be available to get this finished anytime soon.
 - ii. It was agreed that there were several decisions to be made. We need to decide on colors, shapes, basic ideas first so we can present it to a graphic artist.
 - iii. Deadline is May/June for the Fall 2022 program guide.
 - iv. Kristin is the lead on this and will put together a team.
- k. Adult Egg Hunt, April 9
 - i. Donation request letter for baskets – will go out in the next few weeks.
 - ii. The cost is \$15/person in county, \$18 out of county
 - iii. Revenue is split 50/50 with FHBB and CRP.
 - iv. Will be held at Hashawha and the raffle will be held at the pavilion.

4. Next General meeting - March 3, 7pm

Questions/Additional Items:

- 1. Chris asked about tax exempt forms for filing taxes. Dawn recommended he contact Lisa Carroll with specific questions.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.