

Friends of Hashawha and Bear Branch (FHBB)

FINAL Meeting Minutes

August 4, 2022, 7pm

In person at BBNC with a virtual option, link was sent out prior to meeting

friendsofhbb@gmail.com

In Person Attendees:

Nicole Bowman (Vice Chairperson)
Sarah Franz (Secretary)
Dawn Harry (Bear Branch Nature Center)
Brian Gardiner
Alison Malachowski
Ken Harris (Mid-Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts)
Jason Irla (Mid-Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts)
Will Horning

Jessica Horning

Patrick Dinbir

Evan Dinbir

Virtual Attendees:

Chris Markle (Treasurer)

Jenna Mele (Bear Branch Nature Center)

Rachel Hall

1) Call to Order

- a) Welcome and introductions
- b) Motion passed to approve the July 7 minutes

2) Reports

- a) Treasurer – the square was used in recent events and has been successful. Animal care funds have been used for minor surgery. See attached treasurer report. Currently saving \$2,000 for a first aid course. Still waiting for funds from the Egg Hunt event to be transferred from Bear Branch account to FHBB account in RecDesk. Possibly getting funds from yoga class.
- b) Social Media – no updates
- c) Park Operations
 - i) Storms: Mid-Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts (MORE) was tremendous in helping clear trails from the July 12, 2022 storm. To date, about 90% of the trails are clear. However, some trails were closed due to fallen trees and will remain closed due to erosion and other unsafe conditions. The re-route that MORE is working on around the Switchback Trail will also remain closed.
 - ii) Summer camps will be wrapping up this week and next week.
- d) Nature Center
 - i) In the aftermath of the storm, and losing power for 5 days, the County will look into getting a larger generator for the nature center to compensate for animal care during power outages.
 - ii) Make up dates have been set for the cancelled camp due to the power outage. The summer camp will be offered at the end of August for those registrants.
 - iii) Looking for volunteers to work at the front desk through the end of August.
 - iv) Squirt is healing well from surgery.
 - v) Will start working on the Monarch Madness event later this month.

3) Projects

- a) Gardens – The heat has deterred progress and getting volunteers. However, once the weather lets up, will touch base with Jenna to start weeding projects. Some gardens are not doing well because of deer and storm events. However, the garden space is still intact and will be ready to accept new plants next year.
- b) Trails – 4 MORE rides were conducted in the last month before they were sidetracked by the storm damage.
 - i) Jason and Ken started work on the new by-pass for the Switchback trail on the Union Mills Recreation Area (UMRA) side. They have spent about 4 hour clearing the path for the new trail and still have a lot of work to complete.
 - ii)
 - iii) Backbone Trail needs work as a tree root ball destroyed the trail.

- iv) Jason and Ken did some independent trail clearing (Jason did the most, so thanks Jason!)
- v) MORE sponsored several ad-hoc trail clearing days for a total of just under 50 hours of volunteer work. This work was in multiple areas of park - Hashawha/Bear Branch, UMRA, and the Equestrian Center trails.
- vi) They have enough trails cleared that can restart the Thursday / Saturday rides.
- vii) They will get back to work on Switchback Trail this month.
- viii) Most people have been respectful of the trail damage. Several local trail users have suggested a bike race. MORE will work with FHBB to plan for a bike race in the spring. Dawn will send the proposed event to the County for input/approval.

4) Events

- a) Monarch Madness is gearing up and looking for ideas. The Duck Hunt and Run for the Raptors will be planned after Monarch Madness. Brian Gardiner is the lead volunteer for the Run for Raptors, which will be in the next recreation guide and registration will start in August. The cost will be \$35 for runners and \$25 for walkers, which includes the cost of a t-shirt. MORE will also promote this event on their social media site because they are beginning to collaborate with Run Moore in Westminster.

5) Accreditation Audit

- a) Need at least two volunteers independent of the Executive Board review the records from the treasurer and report back to the Treasurer during a regular meeting with findings included in the minutes. The volunteers cannot be on the FHBB account. Thus, Michelle, Chris, and Nicole are prohibited from conducting the audit. The objective is to review financial records to determine it is accurate.
- b) Ken Harris and Jason Irla have volunteered. Chris will provide copies of receipts.

6) Summer Bash

- a) Good turnout, despite hot weather and first-time occurrence.
- b) Turtle, birds, and artifacts at booth were a hit with kids and adults as it gave kids lots of things to interact with. The animals were a great way to draw a crowd.
- c) Michelle wrote up suggestions/lessons learned from that event (attached to these minutes).

7) List of tasks for FHBB to coordinate volunteers

- a) This item was tabled until the next meeting or will be hashed out via email.

8) MD DNR tree grant, due Feb. 15, 2023

- a) Sarah reviewed the grant details on <https://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Pages/programs/urban/mucfcgrant.aspx> and asked the group if anyone would be interested in using the grant funds.
- b) Dawn thought the grant could be used for a few trees to be planted near the new pavilion. Then the rest of the funds would be very beneficial for use in an education program.
- c) Based on the group discussion, there is significant interest in using the funds Jessica Horning will assist with writing the application for the grant.

9) New Business

- a) New logo - officially voted on and introduced. FHBB voted to send a thank you note and gift of maple syrup/honey for Trevor Kern, logo designer. Kristin Darby will draft the thank you note. Also voted yes to give MORE the same donations as thank you.
- b) Banner - Discussed purchase of a banner with the new logo to be used at events and booths. Jenna will contact Phoenix Custom Ink to create a banner with our logo.
- c) Letterhead- Sarah Franz will contact Dawn on specific questions regarding required/standard language. A draft will be sent to the Executive Board via email for review.
- d) Environmental Symposium - date set on Nov 12, 9am-12pm. Currently looking for some ideas for the FHBB display. Noted that the symposium is the same date as the Duck Hunt event. Also noted that the banner may not be ready yet. A location for the symposium has not yet been determined.

10) Friends of Carroll Recreation and Parks (FOCRP)

- a) Seth Carlson new marketing person
- b) Discussed outcome/turnout of the first annual Summer Bash event
- c) Adaptive recreation program – Anne Marie is the contact person. Program assists existing programs to be more inclusive.
- d) Yearly accreditation due Oct. 31st.

11) Announcements

- a) Next FHBB meeting is Sept 1st.
- b) Monarch Madness is Sept 11th.

12) Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm

July 15, 2022 Summer Bash Outcome/Lessons Learned

- FHBB table next to Bear Branch set up, behind playground and away from band
- Raptors definitely helped to attract attention our way
- Displays of pelts, feathers, sea turtle shell a big hit with the kids- stuff they can touch
- Ricky the box turtle also a fan favorite as he crawled around in the grass, kids like to touch him too (with guidance)
- A few flyers were given out, spoke to a few people about the FHBB
- No syrup sale but the Square worked great for my donation, quick and easy to use

Suggestions:

- Ideally, at least two people should be at a table during any one time frame, this would allow for bathroom and meal breaks and help when a lot of people show up at one time
- Kids like to touch stuff, must have touchable items
- Live critters a hit with all ages
- A banner to introduce the FHBB, attract attention and get some “brand” recognition would be helpful
- Maybe a sign up sheet? People could write down their email to be added to the FHBB mailing list