

October 6, 2022 at 7pm FHBB General Meeting Minutes

In person at BBNC with a virtual option, link sent out before Oct 6

In Person Attendees:

Michelle Scott (Chairperson)
Nicole Bowman (Vice Chairperson)
Rachel Hall
Ken Harris
Dawn Harry (Bear Branch Nature Center)
Jason Irla (Mid-Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts)
Jessica Horning

Maggie Kunz (Public Affairs Officer)

Alison Malachowski
Chris Markle (Treasurer)

Virtual Attendees:

Harold Scott

Call to Order

- Welcome and introductions- Michelle Scott
- Review and approve Sept 1 minutes- Michelle Scott - Minutes were approved.

Reports

- Treasurer- Chris Markle - Reviewed report. Explained audit process will wrap up with member review after this meeting. We received \$1107 from RecDesk for registration proceeds from the Monarch Festival, and will receive over \$1000 in additional proceeds; we owe \$322 in costs.
- Social Media- Maggie Kunz - we continue to expand our audience and cross-post with MTBMD and now the bird club. Michelle and others will send Maggie pictures of Ranger and a pumpkin, and skeletons around the nature center for posting. She will be out of town 10/9-10/14.
- FHBB can take over small bulletin board near door; need a volunteer.
- Park Operations and Nature Center- Dawn Harry
 - Now that field trips and programs have slowed, Jenna is sprucing up exhibits.
 - Dawn will lead first Bay trip for middle schoolers since COVID
 - Fish Food - koi pond feeder had issues, was replaced, then fixed, but FHBB can keep \$194.01 in proceeds, we just need to cover the cost of the food. No more needed now, will not eat in winter.
 - Planetarium project
 - 7 years since refurb, needs new projector and Mac, software, installation, up to \$10K
 - Too late for Self-Help grant for rec councils this year and they may not have funds in the spring
 - Dawn, Michele will meet with Westminster Astronomical Society to discuss options

Old Business

- Events Update
 - Review of Monarch Madness Festival
 - Posted follow up release video; next year make it clear we don't do a mass bfly release, emphasize tagging
 - Activities: Chris will buy two new bug balls; new Twister for spinner; need to rework migration game so kids don't get stuck in a loop of 2 steps up, two steps back
 - Review of Wilderness First Aid Class- Robert Scott (proxy Michelle Scott)
 - 5 people attended (all group members)
 - Was good but intense; can break up class in different ways to get total hours
 - Will consider offering again but on two Saturdays; looking at spring 2024
 - Volunteer Potluck dinner, Oct 9, 4-6pm- Michelle Scott - 9 people currently registered

- Run for the Raptors- postponed until Oct 29- Nicole Bowman
 - 17 registrants emailed about cancellation and options to reschedule, just get tshirt, get refund; have to wait for Jenna to return to check email
 - A few additional people have registered
 - Will check info with Jenna, then may get more shirts if needed, possible
 - Next year 5 K and 1 mile walk
 - Need volunteers to be course marshalls

- Family Duck Hunt, Nov 12- Nicole Bowman
 - Only had 5 families, then schools sent out, now have 29 families!
 - Need people to ask businesses for donations (different businesses than egg hunt) - Michelle and Jason volunteered
 - Will get ducks, 300 regular and some fancy for larger prizes; will buy smaller prizes for regular ducks (candy, pencils, stickers, etc)
 - Need volunteers to help hide, will hide some near nature center while families on trail to stretch it out

- Environmental Symposium, Nov 12- Michelle Scott
 - Will set up display similar to Monarch Festival
 - Would like plastic holders for papers
 - Maggie will be there with bird club and can help

- Gardens- Alison Malachowski
 - Workday this weekend, wasn't advertised much; will let Michelle and Maggie know in advance for November date to be shared on email and social media
 - 3 gardens adopted!
 - Has receipts for garden purchases
 - Consider various butterfly host and nectar plants to support wider variety of butterflies/caterpillars next year

- Trails- Ken Harris
 - Hey Westminster grant eligible double match from MORE so lots of funds
 - Will purchase bike service station for trails - successful and safe in other MD parks
 - Will also buy toolbox to store equipment for clearing trails
 - Also considering You are Here maps with QR code, easy to update
 - Still trees falling down after summer storm
 - Still working with Dawn to decide where new signs should go
 - This was last Thursday ride of year because getting dark; now beginner and intermediate both on Saturdays

Michelle has HS and college volunteer groups she will connect with various projects and events.

- Accreditation- Michelle Scott
 - Everything together, just need members to look over financial records.

New Business

- Test of new microphone - it works!
- FoCRP flier - Michelle has, added our logo
- CCBC program collaboration- Maggie Kunz - will continue to share opportunities between groups

- Entomology collection program- Alison Malachowski - scheduled for winter program
- Scout Program- Kristin Darby and Mika Lawrence - Fur, Feathers, Ferns - will work with Jenna to make sure not duplicative or competing with BBNC
- Possible winter craft program- Nicole Bowman - not this year
- Self Help program, grants - consider applying in fall next year
- Nominations of Executive Board Officers - same officers nominated, no additional nominations have been received; need good attendance from members at November meeting to vote on officers. Sarah is tracking attendance so she can make a chart so we know who is eligible to vote (attends at least 3 meetings in a year).

- DNR grant - Jessica will review

Announcements

- FoCRP meeting Oct 25 - Jessica will attend, Michelle may also attend
- Next FHBB meeting Nov 3
 - Election of EB Officers