

Friends of Hashawha and Bear Branch (FHBB)

Final Meeting Minutes

November 3, 2022, 7pm

In person at BBNC with a virtual option, link was sent out prior to meeting
friendsofhbb@gmail.com

In Person Attendees:

Michelle Scott (Chairperson)
Nicole Bowman (Vice Chairperson)
Chris Markle (Treasurer)
Chrissy Gallo
Rachel Hall
Dawn Harry (Bear Branch Nature Center)
Jess Horning
Will Horning
Jason Irla (Mid-Atlantic Off-Road
Enthusiasts)

Maggie Kunz
Alison Malachowski
Jenna Mele
Harold Scott
Robert Scott

Virtual Attendees:

Sarah Franz (Secretary)
Kristin Darby
Chloe (volunteer)

1. Call to Order

- Welcome and introductions- Michelle Scott
- Review and approve Oct 6 minutes – Sarah Franz - The minutes were approved.

2. Vote for Executive Board Officers

- Nominees:
Chairperson- Michelle Scott
Assistant Chair- Nicole Bowman
Treasurer- Chris Markle
Secretary- Sarah Franz
Public Affairs Officer- Maggie Kunz
- Per the guidelines in the bylaws, a quorum was in attendance and all above-listed nominees were elected for a 2nd 1-year term.

3. Reports

- a. Treasurer- The board approved Alison to be able to buy items for the garden and get reimbursed with FHBB funds. Chris is still not able to use the Amazon account with the FHBB debit card and does not want to reimburse himself, so it will work better if someone else can do the purchasing. We do not need to purchase fish food at this time. Dawn will order one the same amount of popcorn for the Duck Hunt as she did for the Monarch Festival. Nicole will drop off receipts from Run for the Raptors (made \$700 for animal care) and \$3016 in funds.
- b. Social Media- still steady; Seth at Rec and Parks is sharing FHBB and Bear Branch/Hashawha news and events often on CCRP page, so we're sharing those and our own content. Always happy to get more content! Thanks, Michelle, for Ranger's Halloween video. We also shared a video of Oscar the Opossum's new home in the nature center.
- c. Park Operations- pretty quiet, one user group this weekend, Bay trip went well, Outdoor School in full swing. Rec & Parks is changing the way they issue checks again but it will be helpful in the end!
- d. Nature Center- Opossum is out of the office and in the nature center. The new turtle tunnel running underneath the box turtles is very popular! She will work on getting a photo on FB. Will

work on getting carpet for crawling and a mural underneath it. A few more field trips and desk shifts this year. Will have training for field trips in March to get volunteers ready for the season (field trips are filling up already). Creating a giving tree to buy things for animals in the nature center. Volunteer also setting up a fundraiser through her school. Rolling with birthday parties!

4. Old Business

Events update

a. Review of Run for the Raptors-

- Went well overall but a little chaotic. Michelle was shuttling volunteers out on the trail but the trails were tricky and she got stuck! Also still placing volunteers when runners started. Many runners missed the main turn off the main trail (there was a sign and tape) and there were some points where no runners passed, so it was not clear where all the runners went. Damp in the morning so it was a little hard to mark the trail. Event was clearly presented as a trail run. But participants had fun, they got shirts and snacks, many are planning to come back next year. Maybe different color flagging tape and earlier in the year to help with trail safety and clarity. Maybe RunMoore could help with planning the next event.

b. Update on Family Duck Hunt, Nov 12-

- Almost all supplies are ready. 30 families signed up; it's supposed to be max of 5 per family so 150 people. Ducks numbered on the bottom, turn in that number for the prize, extra ducks get candy. 7 larger prizes so far, may get a couple from Jenna like private animal meet and greet and birthday party. 8-10 glitter ducks, letter or number on the bottom for a larger prize. Will be limits for each participant so that everyone gets ducks and at least small prizes.
- All number 1s will be in one section, all #2s, etc - so you have to hike the whole area to get one of each duck. Some ducks of each number back at the nature center in case people missed any. After families are done, they can play on the playground, visit nature center, get popcorn, etc.
- Two shifts for volunteers - hiding and registration 12- 2:30 pm; prizes and duck clean up 2:30 - 5.

c. Environmental Symposium, Nov 12th at 9-12 at CCC

- Any ideas for displays? Anyone want to help? Maggie will be there for a bird club with activity, and will help Michelle get activity together (Jenna suggested leaf rubbing). Other volunteers are welcome.

d. Gardens and entomology class- no report

e. Trails- new women's group ride going well; working with Brad on getting the bike repair station, hoping to get a matching grant. Ongoing project on switchback trail.

- Dawn - everyone excited about the fundraiser ride in the spring (May 2023); Jason sent Dawn a list of dates to consider.

5. New Business

a. Review of FoCRP meeting-

- lots of interesting discussions - \$10,000 for painting lines on the field, sports betting, and challenging volunteers.
- She asked if the Friends of CCR&P (501c3) could have a bigger presence online so people can find it and donate online; they will look into putting a link to it on the regular CCRP website. Some new and confusing information about how groups can fundraise.

We could think about having a web page where people could donate. Legacy Fund is only for capital projects; we need to find out how much is in it.

b. Ideas and suggestions for coming year:

- Planetarium, butterfly house, new aviary on long-term list.
- Shirts - getting requests for Bear Branch shirts! Printful and other companies print things on demand. Don't have to hold inventory, just set up online and then they sell them as is. Profits come to us.
- Jason bought an ecommerce squarespace subscription to sell things.
- But local businesses are also good to support. Could have stockpile from Ken (local company, did banner) and also online. Send out surveys to groups to assess interest. Might need to put the CCRP logo on, maybe on a sleeve.
- Need someone to run Run for the Raptors. Maybe RunMoore would help. Will Horning is interested in helping. Would be good if more people wanted to lead an event.
- Build bird blinds for observation - small capital project or maybe Eagle Scout project.
- Bird/raptor festival, maybe late April
- Chrissy and Maggie will work on an Earth Day event.

6. Announcements

- Next FHBB meeting Dec 1 (holiday goodies?)

7. Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm. Attendance was recorded on the meeting tracker.