

Friends of Hashawha and Bear Branch (FHBB)

FINAL Meeting Minutes

December 1, 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)
Maggie Kunz (Public Affairs Officer)
Dawn Harry (Bear Branch Nature Center)
Jenna Mele (Bear Branch Nature Center)
Ken Harris
Jason Irla (Mid-Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts)
Robert Scott
Mika Lawrence

Chrissy Gallo
Diana Raman
Harold Scott

Virtual Attendees:

Jess Horning
Will Horning
Sarah Franz (Secretary)

1) Call to order

- a) Welcome and Introductions
- b) Review and approve Nov meeting minutes

2) Reports

a) Treasurer

- i. **Current Totals.** \$2738.61 in general funds. \$344.09 in Animal Care funds.
- ii. **Run for the Raptors.** Currently at a loss of \$76.80. We spent \$330.00 on shirts and \$31.80 on popcorn. I have received a \$250.00 donation & \$35.00 in late registrations. The recdesk registrations & popcorn sales have not yet been received.
- iii. **Duck Hunt.** Currently at a loss of \$\$141.48. We spent \$301.48 on supplies (some of which can be re-used for future events). I have received \$50.00 in late registrations and \$30.00 for popcorn sales. The RecDesk registrations have not yet been received.
- iv. **Aquarium Purchase.** Spent \$300.00 on an aquarium for a diamondback terrapin. As we took this to a vote on this purchase, I took it from the general fund and not Animal Care, as we reserved that for emergencies & small purchases.
 - i. Question: Do we need an alternate method for urgent purchases over \$100? Are we all OK doing a vote by email like we did for larger purchases on short notice? This topic was tabled for discussion during the next meeting.
- v. **Animal Care.** Spent \$108.46. Purchased multiple sharps disposal boxes due to issues with disposal of used needles from animal injections (\$14.47). Purchased a solar fountain/bird bath for the raptors (\$12.99). Had another vet visit for a turtle (\$81.00).
- vi. **Misc. Purchases.** Replaced the clever catch Insect facts ball used for events. Purchased 2 for \$42.38. Purchased a display stand for flyers (\$36.02).
- vii. **Donations & Sales.** \$220.00 for Animal care. \$13.25 from fish food. \$73.00 from Maple Syrup sales. \$88.00 in the Donation box.

b) Social Media

- i. recommended increase of posts for memberships and animal adoptions

- c) Park operations
 - i. pavilion will break ground this spring
 - ii. Dawn Harry received a Park Superintendent title
- d) Nature Center
 - i. trout released to Morgan Run, and smaller fish are cycled through tank sizes
 - ii. diamondback terrapin progressing to become another animal ambassador
 - iii. spring guide activities due Dec. 21st. need to decide date for adult egg hunt, maple fest, earth day
- e) trails
 - i. need to get signage posted
 - ii. will re-open switchback trail on Dec. 17th
 - iii. mountain bike trail rides ceased during hunting season

3) Old Business

- a) Events
 - 1. Duck Hunt – Event went well and received lots of positive feedback. Need to create and send out thank you letters.
 - 2. Environmental Symposium – Rob, Maggie, and Michelle attended. Positive experience and feedback. FHBB will partner with Charlotte’s Quest Nature Center of Manchester. FHBB will join CQ’s roundtable in January to team up on common goals such as increasing the number of volunteers.

4) New Business

- a) Membership Drive - incentive for members to join aside from discounts to camps. Suggested members-only programs, but concerned with attendance. Hit or miss with attendance being consistent with specific programs. Feeding frenzy days were suggested.
- b) Communication goals for the New Year – creating a website, quarterly newsletter, professional looking emails. Jason Irla volunteered to help with setting up a website and finding a professional email service.
- c) 10% off tshirts if you buy 50 or more shirts for FHBB and the gift shop. Rob looked into print order and pricing to compare.
- d) Howard County Conservancy is hosting a Master Naturalist Retreat on Jan. 27th and several guest speakers will be presenting a wide variety of naturalist information.
- e) Martin Cabin Christmas Dec. 18th 11-4pm at - need volunteers to help with the fire pit and edible garland for the birds. Notify Mika if interested in volunteering.

5) Announcements

- Next FHBB meeting Jan 5
- Entomology Exploration , 2 sessions Jan 14
- Next FoCRP meeting Jan 24th