

Friends of Hashawha and Bear Branch (FHBB)

FINAL Meeting Minutes

January 5, 2023, 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)
Sarah Franz (Secretary)
Nicole Bowman (Vice Chairperson)
Jenna Mele (Bear Branch Nature Center)
Ken Harris (Mid-Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts)
Jason Irla (Mid-Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts)
Robert Scott
Diana Devers
Kristin Darby
Chris Markle (Treasurer)
Rachel Hall
Alison Malachowski

Virtual Attendees:

Jess Horning
Chrissy Gallo
Maggie Kunz (Public Affairs Officer)

1) Call to order

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

2) Reports

- a) Treasurer
 - i. Debit card stolen and \$500 of fraud charges. Working with bank investigation. Cards will now be in the safe at Bear Branch unless needed for a purchase.
 - ii. Monarch Madness proceeds have been received. Still waiting for Duck Hunt and Run for the Raptors.
 - iii. Receipts will be reimbursed for seeds purchased by Alison for the gardens.
- b) Social Media
 - i. Nothing new to report
- c) Park operations
 - i. Residential camp pedestrian improvements. Replace sidewalk, public entrance to lower level of building, fixing up the raingarden pathways. Requesting bids.
 - ii. Winter Nature Experience was cancelled due to low sign-up.
- d) Nature Center
 - i. Getting diamondback on Feb. 6th
 - ii. Black bear mount has been cleaned up and installed.
 - iii. Display case for beaver mount is in the works. Along with other animals and in an area that can be touched.
 - iv. Master Naturalist hours are due by the end of January.
 - v. Front desk and animal care coverage needed.
 - vi. Giving Tree donations were successful and fundraising for raptor carrier.
 - vii. Membership registration is live on RecDesk for 2023.

- viii. Spring Guide and Camp list will be released early Feb.
- ix. Jenna will send out an updated list of animal adoptions.
- x. Martin's Cabin event was successful and there are ideas to include next year.

3) Old Business

- a) T-shirts
 - o Printful.com for t-shirts \$10 base price. With image on back, front and sleeve will cost \$19.06 Can place shirts in the gift shop as well as create an online store with additional products. Ideas of cost per shirt is \$25. Will send out Google Form to the members to determine interest and size. The color of the shirt will be gray.
- b) Gardens
 - o Spoke of various uses and ideas for using the wood from the fallen oak tree. Ideas that woodworking project proceeds will go towards funding garden projects. Bowls, Christmas tree ornaments, etc.
 - o Seeds have been ordered.
 - o \$500 will be transferred to the Garden Fund to kick-start it.
- c) Trails
 - o Progress is being made relocating the Switchback trail. Should be completed by late spring.
 - o Ordered a job box and bike repair stand to be placed at trailhead parking lot.
 - o In-park fundraising event planning underway for bike event scheduled for June 2023. More info to come.
 - o Plans to continue trail projects for 2023.
 - o Continuing tree clearing from recent storm.
- d) Emails/website
 - o Still working on details for the website. Need to determine interest in helping and will create sub-committee.

4) New Business

- a) Carroll County Environmental group collaboration
 - a. Still trying to nail down a kick-off meeting date
- b) Decals/ Stickers
 - a. Idea for creating bumper sticker/decal for FHBB. Jenna will work with Ken Schepper to create stickers/decals of different images for FHBB. Ideas of images to use are FHBB logo, "I Love Hashawha", "I Love Bear Branch Nature Center". Will get a quote from Ken and then make further decisions. Diana will work with her contact at WindowFlakes for window clings.
- c) Maple Fest
 - a. March 4-5th, 11a-1p. Pancake breakfast on Sunday. No pre-registration needed, cash-only event, a-la carte style for each activity (hike, syrup, breakfast, etc.). BBNC gets all the hike money and FHBB gets all the syrup money.
 - b. Inventory syrup and determine how much to order. Will look into ordering maple candy.
 - c. Volunteers for hikes, running syrup table, running syrup boiling station.
- d) Capital projects for 2023?
 - a. Planetarium - Planetarium upgrade cost increased by \$20,000. The projector itself needs to be upgraded as well, which is why the cost increased. Looking at alternatives for lowering the cost but will need to do fundraising to pay for this.

- b. Butterfly House – LaDew Gardens can install structure and plants, does winter/spring maintenance. Jenna will reach out to a contact person to obtain additional details and options.
- i. MDNR grant request is due Feb. 15th. Use for tree loss and small plants for the butterfly house. Jess will meet with Jenna and Dawn regarding what is needed. This grant will reimburse FHBB for money spent on the project.
 - ii. County grant request is due September 2023.

5) Announcements

- Next FHBB meeting Feb. 2
- Entomology Exploration, 2 sessions Jan. 14th, is full
- Next FoCRP meeting Jan. 24th
- Winter Nature Scouts registration is open

Adjourned at 8:23pm.