

July 6 at 7pm, FHBB General Meeting Minutes

In person with a virtual option

Attendance: Michelle Scott, Rob Scott, Alison Malachowski, Rachel Hall, Chris Markle, Jenna Mele, Ken Harris, Dawn Harry, Maggie Kunz, virtual: Will and Jess Horning, Jessica Hughes, Jason Irla, Nicole Bowman, Beth Scott

- Review and approval of June 1 minutes

Report

- Treasurer- Chris Markle

Fund Report

- We have \$8,459.91 in total funds.
- Since our last meeting we received \$630.00 from CCRP for Membership fees, and \$616.00 for Adult Egg Hunt Proceeds. We spent \$301.90 on an eagle scale.

Astro Turf

- I have called Coppermine twice to inquire about turf scraps, leaving messages both times. I have yet to receive a response.

Reimbursement Checks

- The US Post Office is reporting exceptionally high loss of mail, as well as increased check theft and forgery as a result. Because of this, I will no longer be delivering reimbursement checks by mail. I propose that all such reimbursement checks will be brought to the Bear Branch Nature center to be held by Jenna. They could then be picked up during normal park hours or at our monthly meetings.

Other notes: Budget

- Following the discussion of an "Advertising Budget", I have broken our money into six funds; Advertising, Animal Care, Events, Garden, Merchandise, and the General Fund.
- Previously we took money from the General Fund to support the Garden Fund.
- With the start of the new fiscal year, I would like to codify this process and allot annual budgets for both the Garden and Advertising Funds.
- The Garden Fund will continue to be supported by the General Fund, while the Advertising budget will be supported from the Events Fund.
- The other funds are currently self-sustaining with dedicated animal care donations, event proceeds, merchandise sales, and general donations. At this time I see no reason to dedicate specific yearly budgets for them.

- For advertising, we have already spent \$739.40 on advertising since September 2022. I would like to allocate funding from the Events fund to cover that, plus an additional annual budget of \$1,000.00, for a total of \$1,739.40. This would cover items such as our website, banners, stickers, and event sponsorships such as Hill Yeah.
 - Won't advertise our big events that sell out like Egg Hunt and Duck Hunt
 - Will advertise smaller events, investing in getting people to come out - like Earth Day, Raptor Romp, MapleFest
 - \$200 website, \$200 SM advertising, HillYeah sponsorship
 - For the Garden Fund, we have spent \$434.74 since August 2022, with \$315.26 of the original \$750.00 investment remaining. I would like to add an additional \$200.00 for an annual budget of \$500.00 (plus the \$15.26 in carry over funding).
 - While our Merchandise Fund should be self-sufficient, it is currently operating at a deficit of \$1,083.12. We have \$1,799.00 in Maple Syrup inventory and an estimate of \$1,025.00 in clothing inventory (clothing audit in progress). I would like to sell enough Merchandise to turn a profit before purchasing any additional items. Given our current rate of sale, this proposal could impact Maple Syrup purchases for Maple Fest 2024.
 - In a post general meeting budget discussion with Michelle, Chris, Rachel, Rob and Maggie, it was decided to start the 2023/24 advertising budget at \$800 instead of \$1000. Everything else mentioned above stayed the same.
- Social Media- Maggie Kunz
 - Send content!
 - Park Operations- Dawn Harry
 - Front sidewalk in front of main building done
 - One week of 4H and one YMCA done, a few more to go!
 - Dedication for Donna's forest is 2 pm on Sunday, July 9th
 - Nature Center- Jenna Mele
 - Summer camp starting easy this week, lots of counselor help, 9 5 and 6 year olds
 - Next week is full throttle with 10-12 year olds, an overnight
 - Animals doing well
 - Lots of new volunteers for programs, animals, desk!

Old Business

- Gardens- Alison Malachoski
 - Deer hit the gardens hard! Sprayed
 - Groundhog also causing problems near NC pond

- Japanese beetle bags
- New fence around pond garden and out front because kids and families sit and swing on rope fence
- Pumpkins growing well, giant variety, will keep 2 and hope they get really big!
- Will take more garden pictures and send to Maggie to post
- Three sisters garden completely wasted by the deer but working on it
- Total of 5 adopted gardens

- Event Reviews
 - Charlotte's Quest event
 - Rachel and Chris brought animals
 - Well-received

 - Hill Yeah
 - Thanks to everyone who helped
 - 27 registered, 2 weren't able to make it
 - Almost as many volunteers
 - Learned a lot but participants were impressed for first year event! Overall very well-received
 - Already talking about next year - June 8th, 15th is rain date
 - Made over \$1700!
 - Try to get MORE to match and do more work in the park, in part support FHBB!

- Trails- Ken Harris
 - All the work they did to remove invasives - hard to tell with so much growth
 - Met with Dawn, Brad, Mark from horse trails
 - Section of trail they are going to look at rerouting to avoid road, off of Union Mills parking lot
 - Absorbed Spiegel Hill area into their plans, reclaim main loop
 - People have been building bridges, jumps, etc
 - Looking at trail system, which ones are usable, where they can move or change
 - Starting on Switchback trail when Brad gets back from vacation
 - Sponsoring more trail work days
 - Weekly rides slowed down, behind where they were last year for the number of people showing up, looking for ways to get people more involved
 - Someone asked why the rides weren't posted so looking to put more flyers in nature center, on kiosks, etc.

- E-bike issue - MTBMD supports, making decision by the end of the week, but meeting wasn't as impactful as they hoped and Commissioners may not approve this time around
- Family Summer Fest- canceled due to storms
- Raptor cleaning day- 8 people came out
 - Cleaned off roof
 - Dusted inside
 - Weeded
 - Looks great!

New Business

- Butterfly House- Michelle Scott
 - Self Help - county advisory committee mini-grants, not unreasonable amount of money to ask for; we would work on inside structures
 - Met with Dawn, Jenna, Chris and mapped things out
 - Settled on asking for \$20K
 - Councils are responsible for 25% of what they ask for - reimbursement of volunteer hours, if we are granted this we would owe them \$4500 so we have to have that ready to go
 - Hoping to have application ready to go by mid-August to send for review
 - We can ask for donations, look for other grants
 - Monarch festival would be a good time to ask for donations
- Awards for possible nominations - send her any suggestions
 - Environmental Action Award from Carroll County Environmental Advisory Board
 - FHBB Volunteer of the Year
 - Volunteer Hall of Fame Awards from Rec and Parks
 - Open for suggestions - send to Michelle by July 31st
 - Due to county August 28th
- Accreditation
 - Due to the county Aug 31
 - Chris started working on it
 - New this year - we need to add up all of our volunteer hours; needs to email Lisa to confirm which kind of hours, all BBNC or just FHBB
 - Dawn will work on getting more info
- Officers for this year our terms end, except for Chris
- Talled up current FHBB members (become member if you attend 3 and attend at least every other meeting, according to our by-laws)

- Events
 - Monarch Fest - Sat Sept 9th - set a separate meeting, August 3 at 6pm, an hour before the general meeting to plan for event
 - What can we sell? Popcorn, novelty foods
 - Duck Hunt - November 4th - start thinking about places to ask for donations
 - Raptor Romp - October 7th - 10-1 stations along the Vista trail for activities, free with donations, if it rains it will be inside
 - Could do raffle to get more funds, maybe meet and greet with birds
 - Jason has talked with people about the Raptor Run but we decided to pass this year
 - A meeting to plan this event will be scheduled soon
 - Maggie bird events - Sept 23rd family friendly bird walk sponsored by bird club; Westminster working with bird club on Bird City
 - Environmental symposium - October 28, we will attend, at Ag Center

- Friends of CRP - next meeting July 25
- Volunteer Potluck October 14th, 1-3pm

Motion to adjourn 8:05pm