



Friends of Hashawha Bear Branch

300 John Owings Road
Westminster, MD 21157-3149
410-386-3560
friendsofhbb@gmail.com

FINAL Meeting Minutes

October 5, 2023, 7pm

In-person at BBNC with a virtual option. A link was sent out prior to the meeting.

friendsofhbb@gmail.com

In-Person Attendees:	Virtual Attendees:
Michelle Scott (Chairperson)	Will Horning
Chris Markle (Treasurer)	Jessica Horning
Sarah Franz (Secretary)	Nicole Bowman
Maggie Kunz (Public Affairs Officer)	
Rachel Hall	
Alison Malachowski	
Dawn Harry (BBNC)	
Ken Harris (MORE)	
Jason Irla (MORE)	
Jenna Mele (BBNC)	
Beth Shaw	
Beth Scott	
Kristin Darby	
Harold Scott	
Chrissy Gallo	

1. Call to Order

- a) Welcome and Introductions
- b) Review and approve September meeting minutes.

2. Reports

- a) Treasurer Update
 - i. Reviewed the current status of funds.
- b) Social Media Update
 - i. Will work on getting videos of the animals posted.
- c) Park Operations Update
 - i. Bob Hicks - new director of CCRP starts Oct. 26th to replace Jeff Diggitz
 - ii. New position open at Bear Branch Nature Center for a Program Associate, Tues-Sat, to run the nature center.
- d) Nature Center Update
 - i. New pleco has been added to pond tank.
 - ii. Kestrel, Ember, is staying permanently in the Mews.
 - iii. Red shouldered hawk, Phil, will be added to programs once fully trained





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- iv. Spring field trips are booking. Looking for volunteers and will hold a training/refresher course for the field trips.

3. Old Business

- a) Nominations for FHBB officers
 - i. Kristin nominated herself for chairperson
 - ii. Michelle nominated for vice chairperson
 - iii. Rachel Hall nominated herself for the PAO position.
 - iv. Maggie Kunz nominated herself for the secretary position.
 - v. After the vote, the new and old officers will meet to discuss transfer of power and responsibilities.
- b) Monarch Fest review-
 - i. Lessons Learned
 - People need to bring cash for the food vendors. Question was can we use the square to take credit purchases. Dawn noted that the nature center is acquiring tablets that may help with having more square purchasing opportunity.
 - Butterfly catching station was hard to find and had less traffic
 - Not much for adults to do. Need more speakers and vendors. Possibly doing beer and wine garden.
 - People didn't agree to the cost vs. what was available.
- c) Raptor Romp- Oct. 7, 10am-1pm
 - i. Rain or shine
- d) Gardens
 - i. Beth Shaw will be taking over for Alison as the garden coordinator. Chris gave a brief overview of how funds work.
 - ii. Despite the drought, the gardens still did well.
 - iii. Adopt-a-garden program has received positive feedback and all want to re-adopt for the next year.
- e) Trails
 - i. Last get-to-know-you ride will be in October.
 - ii. Saturday rides will end in November with a community campfire to all trail users
 - iii. Next year's trail maintenance schedule will change a bit and become 2nd saturday of every month
 - iv. Eagle Scout project has been approved by Dawn for a new bike stand by the end of next spring. It will be placed near the Union Mills side of the park.
 - v. Bike repair stations are being used and treated well.
- f) Butterfly House/Self Help Application
 - i. Presented to the advisory council. Waiting for commissioner approval in a few weeks.



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4. New Business

- a) Nature Scouts
 - i. Looking for different ways to market the program to bring in more participants
- b) IRS 501c3 Meeting with County
 - i. All rec councils have to apply for 501c3 individually. Lots of conflicting info that needs clarification.
 - ii. If we stay with the county, we are covered under liability insurance.
 - iii. IRS requirement that any organization with its own Employer Identification Number (EIN) number needs to have its own 501c3.
 - iv. For the 501c3 application, we can use the easy form based on our annual income.
 - v. Vote: motion to OK with one signature on checks instead of two. Motion carried. However, moving forward two signatures are required.
 - vi. Applications are due December 31st to the county.
 - vii. Bylaws will need to be revised to reflect the changes to the 501c3 section.
 - viii. Vote: \$275 application fee - vote approved.
- c) Venmo
 - i. Was used by Wakefield Valley Nursery during plant sale at Monarch Fest and was very easy and successful to use.
 - ii. FHBB bank does allow Venmo.
 - iii. Chris stated that once FHBB gets its 501c3, then he'll relook at using Venmo and Square. Will need to look at Venmo as a secure method of payment aside from debit card or checks.
- d) Family Duck Hunt preparations
 - i. Nicole will set up a meeting to discuss preparations. Plan on repeating what was done last year.
 - ii. Looking for volunteers and donations.
 - iii. Need LOTS of advertisement.
- e) Open Floor
 - i. Volunteer for the Gift Shop - Ken's wife is interested in helping with the gift shop. Beth Scott created inventory forms that can be used for gift shop inventory.
 - ii. Westminster City Rec and Parks hosting a Halloween event on Oct. 21st, 3-6pm . They are looking for candy and an interactive activity. FHBB will do leaf rubbing, maybe can borrow the hissing cockroach will be fun to share. Maggie and Chrissy to represent FHBB and Nature Scouts

5. Announcements/Upcoming Events

- a) Raptor Romp- October 7





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- b) Volunteer Potluck- October 14, 1-3pm
- c) FoCRP meeting- October 24
- d) 2nd Annual Environmental Symposium- October 28
- e) Family Duck Hunt- November 4 (rain date Nov. 18)

Motion to adjourn – 8:21pm