

Allen County Park Board Minutes – March 18, 2009 @ Metea Park Nature Center
In attendance: S. Gregory, M. Henry, R. Kemery, K. Stacey, T. Hall, W. Crowley, J. Baxter, C. Gutman, L. Brown, K. Ferguson, J. Beerbower, R. Devilbiss,

President Sam Gregory called the meeting to order at 4:15 PM.

February 2009 minutes approved M. Henry, W. Crowley, (sec.).
February 2009 financials approved, M. Henry, W. Crowley, (sec.)

The board briefly discussed the idea of sustainable power sources for both parks.

Friends of Metea:

The prairie burn was completed. Home school science programs are going well. Approximately 10 sets of binoculars were purchased from donated funds. Joanne shared Friends of Metea financial summaries with the board.

Fox Island

Kate reported that there were three awards given to science fair participants from the Alliance. The Indiana Master Naturalist program began classes with 35 participants. The Alliance has recruited three new board members.

Superintendent's Report Highlights: (see attached summary for greater detail)

Jeff conducted a tour of the County Parks for new board members T. Hall and W. Crowley. Park staff has attended various training sessions; all educational staff members are now certified interpretative guides.

Bill and Jeff continue to investigate the possibility of obtaining high-speed Internet service to Fox Island.

Planning continues for 2009 Sol fest. Educational tours and workshops have been conducted at both parks including: Owl Prowl, Home School programs, Salamander Night hikes, and Pre-school classes.

Jeff is arranging to borrow the County's wood chipper to clean up damage still left from the ice storms.

2,148 visitors visited the County Parks booth at the Home & Garden Show.

A Volunteer Appreciation Dinner was held at Fox Island on March 2.

New Business:

The board listed to an excellent presentation from the Fort Wayne Astronomical Society regarding its plan to build a new observatory at Fox Island.

Carrie gave Jeff a draft copy of a Memorandum of Understanding for the Astronomical Society project.

The board passed a motion to conduct its meetings on a quarterly basis- preferably on the second Thursday of those designated months. M. Henry, T. Hall (sec.).

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM

Respectfully submitted
Ricky D. Kemery, Board Secretary