

Allen County Parks - Board Meeting – 11/10/10

In attendance: S. Gregory, J. Baxter, M. Henry, K. Stacy, C. Shumway, R. Divelbiss, K. Ferguson, Commissioner N. Peters.

Sam Gregory called the meeting to order at 4:04 PM at the Metea Park Nature Center.

Minutes: August 2010 minutes approved. K. Stacy, M. Henry (sec).

Financials: July 2010 financials approved: M. Henry, C. Shumway (sec).
August 2010 financials approved: M. Henry, K. Stacey (sec).
September 2010 financials approved: K. Stacey, C. Shumway (sec).
October 2010 financials approved: K. Stacey, C. Shumway (sec).

Friends of Metea: Ron reported to the board that 25 groups had visited the park bringing in over 300 children and teachers. IPFW Field Day brought 170 children, parents and teachers. Teaching students perform the outdoor labs. Also gave details on new hiking program for parks along with other local agencies. Naturally Christmas at Metea will be held December 12th from 2-5 pm.

Fox Island Alliance: Kate reported that distribution managers from AEP, led by Ed Ehlers who works for AEP and is on the Fox Island Alliance Board completely rebuilt the Marsh Overlook at Fox Island and did a wonderful job. Also reported regarding Alliance scholarships, tree trail brochures and working on Bio-boxes for school groups with the staff at Fox Island. AEP has also offered mulch to the parks from their tree operations.

Superintendent's Report- (see attached)

Highlights: Jeff reported posting open positions for a part-time receptionist
Jeff continues to work on web page development and updates, Bob D does Facebook account.
Jeff will be requesting a revised quote for voicemail capabilities for staff phones.
Honeysuckle Removal Days are scheduled for the third week of November.
Restored the boardwalk at North Metea to original location with the assistance of AC Highway Department.
NEAT Bike Ride was held October 2nd. Weather did not cooperate with only 13 participants. Staff is reviewing the program and whether dates and collaboration with other trails organizations would help in attendance

Old Business:

Update on 2011 Budget – Jeff reported that Parks budget was approved by County Council as submitted.
Great Tree Canopy Comeback at Fox Island – 82 volunteers showed up to plant 20 trees at Fox Island. Staff reviewing participation in 2012. Although well attended each of the three years we have participated, no funds come to AC Parks from Friends of the Parks and monies may be better spent in other areas.
Deer Run Property – Judge Sims and the courts still have not made any move on the Memorandum of Understanding. While staff would still like to see the agreement signed, the project will be put on the “back burner” until the courts make the next move.

New Business:

None

Discussion Items:

2011 Fees – Jeff reported that fees for annual passes at the parks have not been changed or raised in at least 10 years and asked what the Board's feeling were on increasing the fees for annual passes by \$5.00 and creating Student, Senior, and Veterans passes with the old lower fees. He would leave the entry fee the same. Jeff indicated there have been requests for such passes but did not have the back up information available. The board felt strongly that now was NOT the time to be raising the fees with economy still the way it is. The Board requested that Jeff return in the future with number or requests for the new type passes along with data regarding how many passes and what information we collect on the passes.

Meeting adjourned 5:17 PM. M. Henry, K. Stacy, (sec.).

Respectfully submitted, Jeff Baxter, Superintendent