

Friends of Findley State Park
Meeting – January 5, 2008
Minutes

Meeting was called to order at 10:24 p.m. by Bill Martin, Pres. This meeting was held on the first Saturday of the month because the first Tuesday was New Year's Day.

Members present included Bill Martin, Laura Leitner, Bill Leitner, Joe Bedrick and Roger Nikiforow .

Reading of the minutes from November was dispensed with approval from all in attendance.

Treasurer's Report – There was no official Treasurer's report. Roger turned in a receipt for expenses from the Fall Campout.

Correspondences

There were no correspondences to report.

Old Business

Car Show – A motion was made to have Frank Lamata as the DJ this year because he has the wireless setup which will provide better sound for the participants at the back of the area. Laura Leitner made the motion, Joe Bedrick seconded, all approved and the motion was passed.

Web Site – Still trying to get together with Tina Kross. She did confirm that Friends of Findley.org is a domain name that can be used. Bill Leitner will be assisting with maintenance of the web site once it is established.

By-Laws – The By-Laws of Friends of Findley State Park, Inc. were voted on at this meeting after a short discussion. Laura Leitner moved to approve the By-Laws as written, Bill Leitner seconded. There were 4 Yea's by members in attendance, 1 Proxy Yea by Chris Fox via a phone message left for the President and Secretary, and 1 abstention. Motion passed.

Bulletin Boards - Brian Anderson will see about getting 3-4 made. Possibly having a Scout group make them.

Pipe Safes - One pipe safe was installed shortly before the fall campout. At last check, the safe contained \$3.24. The money was left in the safe for future deposit.

New Business

Winter Hike - The annual Winter Hike will be on Saturday, February 2. The Friends group traditionally provides bean soup and cornbread for the hikers. Doug and Peggy Hastings and Hazel Pruitt usually organize this event. They will be contacted to see what supplies may be needed. Laura Leitner moved to supply ingredients needed, Rodger seconded, all in favor, motion passed.

“Findley’s Outdoor Adventure Series” - Joe Bedrick is working on a series of “adventures” to offer visitors spread out through the year. Discussed the idea of having a “prize” if you complete a certain number of the planned activities. Joe and Roger are to meet with Brian to present a tentative agenda for events. Keeping in mind the discussion from the last meeting regarding the difference to “Park” events and “Friends” events, it was agreed that this would be a “Park” program, with the Friends group helping with supplies needed and perhaps assistance to the park employee running the event.

Disc Golf - The possibility of expanding the 9 hole course to 18 by moving the tees was brought up. This would be a good promotion as we could then sponsor invitationals.

Buttons – Chris Fox reported in his voice message that he would be ordering the Badge-A-Minute supplies the next day.

FPOSP Membership Renewal - An invoice for renewing our membership to the FPOSP was received. Rodger moved to pay the dues, Bill Martin seconded, all approve, motion passed.

Upcoming Events - Some of the upcoming events on the events calendar include:

Winter Hike – February 2

Easter Egg Hunt – March 22

Trail Days – June 7

Discussion - There was a lively discussion about the need to collect dues. It was questioned by a member via email as to whether it was even legal. The group was originally set up as a dues paying membership and was changed along the way for some reason. It was pointed out that a Friends group is different from a Volunteer group in that a Friends group is responsible for raising funds and being held accountable for their use. A volunteer group is usually a group of people that just want to help out with activities by providing manual labor and support. Both groups are indispensable to the park system, and will be even more so with future budget cuts in store. It is hoped that the two groups will be able to work hand in hand to support the park and staff that we all love, but in order to maintain a fair and above board procedure for handling financial decisions, there have to be specific guidelines to follow. Voting by the members is the only way the group can come to a decision when necessary. It is never left up to an individual. Deciding on who has the right to vote was the reason dues were discussed. The majority of members present at the meetings felt it was important to distinguish the members who are actively working to raise funds from the casual member who is more interested in just volunteering at events for the joy of helping out. They are certainly an important part of any support group and are strongly appreciated and encouraged to remain members. The only difference would be that they would not have voting privileges, nor would they be allowed to run for office. It is hoped that the institution of dues will not have a detrimental affect on the group’s effectiveness, but instead, recognize the individuals dedicated to serving Findley State Park and staff in the best way they can.....Financial support.

As there was no further discussion, meeting was adjourned at 12:05 pm.