

**MINUTES-FRIENDS OF DONALD PARK, INC. MONTHLY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:  
11/18/08**

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Board: Mary Feldt, Pat Hitchcock, Roger Parr, Ron Rassner, Dave Schreiber, Donna Thomas. Guests: Jay Gullixson, Misha Namenworth. Recording Secretary B. Hartman

Meeting was called order by President, Dave Schreiber at 6:38 P.M.

**REVIEW AGENDA:** Motion by R.Rassner/R.Parr to approve agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

**MINUTES:** Motion by R.Parr/R.Rassner to approve October 21, 2008 meeting minutes with revisions as requested. Motion carried unanimously.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:** Dane County Parks Staff, Darren Marsh, presented a plaque and announced FODP has been recognized by the Wisconsin Parks and Recreation Association with the 2008 Award of Excellence for Delma's shelter being an environmentally top project.

**APPEARANCES:** Nina Cheney presented to the board an upcoming event she and Jacob are putting on; 'Wild Rumpus Winter Circus', which is scheduled for January 31, 2009 and the theme will be centered around the Donald Park. Nina proposed that FoDP sponsor the event in order so they could use our non-profit status to rent the High School auditorium. A motion was made by P.Hitchcock/R.Rassner to allow Friends of Donald Park to "work in cooperation" with Cheney & Mills on the event so that our non-profit status could be used by Cheney & Mills in organizing the event and renting the auditorium. Motion carried unanimously. Nina will email the press release on the event to FoDP.

Dane County Parks Staff, Darren Marsh, Dick Black and Rhea Stangel-Maier visited our board meeting to discuss the FoDP Master plan and on-going park projects and introduced various revenue sources that would help support development in the park in the long term and offset project costs such as Equestrian Camping and Cross-Country Skiing. Project items that were discussed include Trail Development (current and new), Planning and Fundraising for future projects such as (Equestrian Parking Lot Shelter, Group Camp Area Restroom and Shelter, Meadow Cabins) and Park Presentation (Signage and Nodes Trails - Cabin Site, School Programs - Prairie/Stream/Geology.

Jay Gullixson introduced himself and expressed interest in becoming a FoDP Board member. Jay has recently moved to the area and has been volunteering in the park on Tuesdays.

Misha Namenworth attended our meeting to share his opinions and interests in the park boundaries. His land connects with the park boundaries and he hopes the trails on his land will be used more by hikers and visitors to the park. He is maintaining trails etc and wanted to make sure we create an awareness of the potential for usage. Misha also expressed concerns with the public hunting close to his property.

**REPORTS**

**SECRETARY REPORT:** No Report

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** No Report.

**PRESIDENT:** No Report

**ADMINISTRATIVE POSITION REPORT:** B. Hartman reported her administrative duties continue to work with Pat coordinating volunteer work projects. She completed the data entry on the membership database and everything is current.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**ADMINISTRATION, BUDGET, FINANCE, AND PLANNING** - No Report

**MEMBERSHIP/COMMUNICATIONS:** Letters will be sent the end of January with dues due in March 2009.

**NEWSLETTER:** A shorter version will be out by late November. Donna is working on the annual report and will add the Circus event to the calendar.

**WEBSITE:** No Report

**VOLUNTEER COORDINATION:** P. Hitchcock

Volunteers have been clearing logs and trees from a wooded prairie as well as finishing the work with Bob Birmingham on the Foye Cabin. The Foye Cabin project will be closed for the winter and Bob is very pleased with what has been accomplished. This has been a very successful project and there are more Native American plans for Donald Park that will be pursued in the future.

**NATURAL AREAS:** P. Hitchcock

Pat showed a picture of a cover bridge that she found and would like to be considered for future bridge plans to keep it with the natural vision for Donald Park.

**EQUESTRIAN TRAILS:** Roger Parr

Roger reported that the bridge work should be completed by Saturday, November 21. Roger and Dick Black will walk the trails and set flags where the signage will be placed. New trails will be open in the spring.

**EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION:** No Report

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Action Item:

\*\*Scheidegger Grant Update - The Donald Park/Tom Woods proposal along with a budget has been sent in and is waiting for a response.

\*\*Cell Tower Update - Nothing new to report.

\*\*History Subcommittee event - The Historical Social held on Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup> was a very positive event. Bob Birmingham was the guest speaker and Mike Coffey and Matt Marty also presented. Approximately 50 people attended.

Action Item:

\*\*Revisions to Board member packet - Barb prepared an example of our packet that will be given to new board members. A number of items need review. Barb will send forms electronically for board members to review and respond with changes. Changes will be discussed at December meeting.

\*\*New Board member voting slate-Donna will prepare a slate for board nominees for the March annual meeting. Barb will check with Vicki Anderson on the timeline for posting the ballots. Five spots will need to be filled and we have three potential board members indicating interest. Motion by R.Rassner/M.Feldt to invite them to join the board. Motion carried unanimously. Dave will extend the invite to nominees to attend our January board meeting to introduce themselves and share their background and interests. The packets will be handed out at that time.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Action Item:

\*\*Fundraising - Pat brought to our attention that other non-profits are receiving grants from the Rotary and suggested that we pursue these other areas for grant money. Barb will contact the Chamber to determine the contact person at the Rotary for an application.

**REVIEW AND APPROVE BILLS:** None

**NEXT BOARD MEETING:**

Tuesday, December 16, 2008 6:00 p.m. at Conrad and Vicki Anderson's home. Meeting to start at 6:00, gathering/social at 7:30 p.m. Barb will send invite to all former and current board members and guest.

Suggested Agenda Items:

Board Member recruitment, rights and requirements.  
Review of Bylaws and other inserts in board member packet.  
Preparation of Nomination Slate

**ADJOURN:**

Motion by R. Parr/R.Rassner to adjourn by unanimous consent at 10:10 p.m.  
Respectfully submitted, Barb Hartman, Recording Secretary