

**MINUTES-FRIENDS OF DONALD PARK, INC. MONTHLY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
01/20/09**

IN ATTENDANCE: Board: Ted Bailey, Mary Feldt, Jay Gullixson, Pat Hitchcock, Matt Marty, Roger Parr, Ron Rassner, Dave Schreiber, Donna Thomas. Recording Secretary B. Hartman

Meeting was called order by Dave Schreiber 6:35 P.M.

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

MINUTES: Motion by R. Rassner/R. Parr to approve December 16, 2008 meeting minutes as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: None

APPEARANCES: Potential new board nominees invited: Vickie Peterson, Merry Ross, Phil Salkin, & Pat Schultz. Each guest gave a brief statement on their background and interests and what they would bring to the park as a board member. Each guest received a new board member packet. Dave Schreiber highlighted the expectations of the Board, working with current committees and Dane County Parks and keeping with the philosophy, history and vision for the future of Donald Park. Several board members expressed their views that the board is best when made up of members with different interests and representation.

COMMUNICATIONS: The Wild Rumpus Winter Circus, with the theme featuring and promoting Donald Park will be held Saturday, January 31st at the Mt. Horeb High School with 3:00 and 7:00 shows. Barb will send the communication out to all volunteers so we have a good representation from the Friends.

REPORTS

SECRETARY REPORT: No Report

TREASURER'S REPORT: Ted Bailey presented the 2008 Profit & Loss and Trial Balance, 2009 Proposed Budget and the activity on FODP Endowment fund. Motion by M. Marty/R. Parr to approve treasurer's report. Motion carried unanimously.

PRESIDENT: Dave Schreiber will be in contact with Darren Marsh to set up plans for the annual meeting. Items for discussion will be project priorities for 2009 and the extent of DCP assistance and involvement.

ADMINISTRATIVE POSITION REPORT: B. Hartman reported she has prepared renewal letters for mailing and they will be sent by 1/23/09. Barb will also be delivering all of the volunteer hours to Michelle Campbell who will compile them and report the totals to Rhea Stangel-Maier at Dane County Parks with a copy for the FoDP files.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ADMINISTRATION, BUDGET, FINANCE, AND PLANNING - No Report

MEMBERSHIP/COMMUNICATIONS: Donna suggested we send personal thank you's to our top donors. The list was passed around with each board member picking a couple of names to send thank you's.

MEMBERSHIP DATA:

Action Item: Discussion on our current membership database followed with suggestions to make it more user friendly. Jay Gullixson will consult with a friend on File Maker Pro to see if it could be adapted to our needs.

NEWSLETTER: An annual report/newsletter will be mailed at the end of February. The newsletter will include the annual report, event calendar, and recognition of donors and volunteers. Future newsletters will be in an abbreviated version and targeted for late spring and fall.

WEBSITE: Barb will send Megan list of upcoming calendar events to add to the website.

VOLUNTEER COORDINATION: J. Gullixson

Many Tuesday work plans have been cancelled due to weather conditions. Jay met with Chris James and Rhea Stangel-Maier to discuss winter projects. Wayne approved the new trail; Dave Vokeland approved brush removal from both sides of the bridge to create open fishing access. Spring work schedules will be coordinated. Jay suggested we look into purchasing a chainsaw for the park and is willing to maintain it. Wayne Pauly approved FODP purchasing our own chainsaw.

Action Item: Jay will get estimates and will forward information to the Board via email. A motion was made by M. Marty/R. Rassner for Jay to proceed with getting bids for purchasing the chainsaw. Motion carried unanimously. Jay will also coordinate with volunteers large equipment needs and get estimates for a pole saw and the cost for renting a brush hog.

Action Item: Volunteer Hours - report at February meeting 2008 volunteer hours and volunteer machinery usage.

NATURAL AREAS:

Action Item: Delay Report to February meeting. Discuss use of sensor cameras to record park usage for justification of DCP support.

EQUESTRIAN TRAILS: Roger Parr

Roger distributed a list of items that need to be done on the horse trails. Roger will meet with landowners to review their agreement for 2009. The landowners are invited to the Sugar River Holiday Party.

EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION: Matt Marty reported that Bob Birmingham is organizing all of the items to be donated to the Mt. Horeb Area Historical Society. The group is looking forward to spring to search for more spear points and work on the cabin foundation. The additional \$3,000 grant will be used to search for more woodland sites.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Action Item:

**Scheidegger Grant Update - Ron Rassner reported that he has been in contact with Sara Kwitek of DCP regarding the budget and final accounting for our interpretive plan. A decision is expected the end of January and it will then be taken before DCP to proceed. Motion by T. Bailey/D. Thomas to approve the proposed budget for the Interpretive Program. Motion carried unanimously. Ron will inform Sara Kwitek via email. A meeting with DCP staff is planned for February to discuss the next steps.

**Action Item:

Board Member Nominee Approval - Discussion followed on each of the candidates that presented themselves as nominees to a board seat earlier in the evening. Individually, Vicki Peterson - Motion by R. Parr/T. Bailey to accept nomination to a seat on the board. Motion Carried unanimously. Pat Schultz - Motion by R. Rassner/R. Parr to accept nomination. Motion carried unanimously. Phil Salkin - Motion by M. Feldt/T. Bailey to place in nomination to a seat on the board. Several members of the board requested that we invite Phil back to discuss his contributions to the board. Dave will contact Phil to present questions that were brought to discussion. Motion delayed. Merry Ross - Motion by R. Parr/R. Rassner to accept nomination to a board seat. Motion carried unanimously. The board will await Merry's acceptance before proceeding further.

**Action Item:

Updated Park Map - Roger is working with Brian Berkan on an updated park map.

NEW BUSINESS:

Action Item:

**Garden Expo - February 13-15, 2009. Don Hartman will coordinate the FoDP Booth at the Garden Expo and an email will be sent to all FoDP volunteers to recruit people to work in the booth.

**2009 Budget - Ted distributed a draft of the 2009 budget and asked the board to look at the numbers and respond with comments with regard to future projects and activities.

Administrative management - propose to DCP board what we want to accomplish and get their input and commitment to a timeframe to complete the projects. A meeting will be scheduled with DCP in February to discuss our work plan projects and review our strategic plan.

**Annual Meeting and Volunteer Appreciation Dinner - Date is set for March 28. Preliminary planning for the annual meeting was discussed. Roger Parr will contact the caterer and Ron Rassner will contact Becky Olson of USRWA to see if they would like to be a presenter. Final details will be discussed at the February Meeting. Bios are needed for board member nomination ballots.

NEW BUSINESS:

**Action Item:

Dane County Environmental Grant Ideas - A grant application was received from DCP. Grant money could be used to fund capital equipment purchases, projects that promote the park and supplement the historical and archeological projects. Mike Coffey emailed his suggestions on behalf of the Historical committee for discussion. The application deadline is February 27, 2009.

REVIEW AND APPROVE BILLS: Bills were submitted totaling \$509.31. Motion by R.Rassner/D. Thomas to approve bills. Motion carried unanimously.

NEXT BOARD MEETING:

Tuesday, February 17, 2009 6:30 p.m. at Barb Hartman's, 2262 Springdale Center Road, Verona.

Suggested Agenda Items:

New Board Member Ballots/Bios
2009 Budget
Annual Meeting Program & Door Prizes
Dane County Environmental Grant

ADJOURN:

Motion by M. Marty/R. Rassner to adjourn by unanimous consent at 10:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Barb Hartman, Recording Secretary