

**MINUTES-FRIENDS OF DONALD PARK, INC. MONTHLY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
02/17/09**

IN ATTENDANCE: Board: Ted Bailey, Mary Feldt, Pat Hitchcock, Roger Parr, Ron Rassner, Dave Schreiber. Recording Secretary B. Hartman

Meeting was called order by Dave Schreiber 6:40 P.M.

REVIEW AGENDA: Motion by R. Parr/R. Rassner to approve amended agenda, adding Roger Parr and Pat Hitchcock to board nomination list. Motion carried unanimously.

MINUTES: Motion by R. Parr/P. Hitchcock to accept amended January 20, 2009 meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: The Board acknowledged Jacob Mills & Nina Cheney for their successful Wild Rumpus Winter Circus that featured Donald Park on January 31st.

APPEARANCES: New board nominees: Vickie Peterson & Pat Schultz to observe meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS: Ron Rassner referred Dave Crisman who he met at the Garden Expo. Dave has draft horses and provides winter bobsled rides in the event we would every want to consider his services at the park. Dave's information will be kept for future reference.

REPORTS

SECRETARY REPORT: No Report

TREASURER'S REPORT: Ted Bailey reported a balance of \$25,478.02.

PRESIDENT: Dave Schreiber presented a report on the February 4th meeting with DCP staff to set priorities for 2009 and coordinate our need for input and assistance on all projects. A prioritized list of projects was discussed. FoDP would like to get started as soon as possible and will be in contact with Chris James and Dick Black for their input and direction.

ADMINISTRATIVE POSITION REPORT: B. Hartman is receiving membership renewals and updating the database. She continues to coordinate the Tuesday projects with volunteers through Jay Gullixson. She is preparing materials to be sent for the annual meeting and volunteer appreciation event on March 28, 2009.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ADMINISTRATION, BUDGET, FINANCE, AND PLANNING - No Report

MEMBERSHIP/COMMUNICATIONS: Donna sent her report via email since she would not be able attend the meeting. Membership renewals have been sent and are coming in but gift giving appears to be down. We hope to have over 100 members renew. Donna also reported that an updated supply of brochures was printed. Roger Parr suggested we change the format, include the website address and an updated map along with some new pictures on our next printing.

MEMBERSHIP DATA TRANSFER:

Action Item: Ted Bailey and Vicki Peterson met with Barb to introduce the Quik Books program and it appears that it would be a positive move to transfer our data to that program. Vicki and Barb will be able to work together on the database with Web access.

NEWSLETTER: Donna is putting together our first ever annual report which will be mailed the early part of March.

WEBSITE: Roger Parr reported that Megan McGuire wants to give up her duties as administrator of the website. Roger has another contact that has been assisting Megan and would we willing to take over the project.

VOLUNTEER COORDINATION: J. Gullixson

Jay Gullixson was not able to attend the meeting but met with Pat Hitchcock to discuss the projects that are targeted for spring and summer. Pat wants to pass on the responsibility of coordinating the projects and hopes to gather a number of volunteers who would be willing to take a lead role. She has contacted a number of them and Barb will follow up to confirm their commitment.

Action Item: The decision has been made not to purchase a chainsaw as was discussed at the January meeting.

**Volunteer Hours for 2008

Action Item: Michelle Campbell is compiling the volunteer hours for reporting to DCP and will coordinate with Barb when she has the task completed.

NATURAL AREAS:

Pat contacted the Premier Coop about spraying the MFR. Because of the heavy demand in spring for agricultural needs and the small window of availability, they recommended we wait until fall.

EQUESTRIAN TRAILS: Roger Parr

Roger suggested putting a donation box at the Trail Head. DCP would put one up if we agreed on it. Roger also would like to see some variety off trails for riding. Perhaps some loops off the current trails (i.e. Deer Creek Sportsman Club loop on to Sonstebly property). This would enable access to DNR land.

EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION:

Action Item:

A suggestion was made to invite horse trail volunteers to work with Bob Birmingham on Tuesday or Saturdays. It would add interest for the volunteers. Matt Marty will hopefully get a schedule for spring and summer work with Bob Birmingham.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Action Item:

**Scheidegger Grant Update - Ron Rassner indicated we should expect to hear a decision on the Scheidegger Grant in March. Once we receive approval we will go back to the consultant for our interpretive plan and refine our proposal. It will be mid to late summer before there is an action plan. Funding for the Horse Bridge will not come out of the Park Development Fund. \$3,000 is available from The Horse Council, and \$500 will be used for the Signage. The balance could be put toward the extension of new trails. Ted will file a report to the Horse Council for the funding.

**Action Item:

Board Member Recruitment - Candidates who submitted their nominations (Vicki Peterson, Pat Schultz and Merry Ross) were reaffirmed. Donna Thomas, Roger Parr and Pat Hitchcock have agreed to continue on the board and need to be listed on the ballots. Bios will be sent to Barb to be included with the annual meeting mailing.

**Action Item:

Updated Park Map - Brian Berkan would like us to develop our own map. Roger suggested we publish our own flyer for visitors to pick up when they come to the park. It could include an insert with a map and a description of the various trails inside and outside the park. Roger will research and report back.

**Garden Expo - The Garden Expo was a success. Lots of visitors passed by our booth and it was decided we should participate again. Roger took requests for horse trail passes and will forward them to Jean Warrior.

**2009 Budget - The 2009 budget was reviewed and a motion was made by R. Parr/Mary Feldt to accept a 30% reduction to the income by donation. Another change was made to increase the operating income by \$2,500 to include Barb's salary. A Motion was made by R. Rassner/P. Hitchcock to approve this change. Motions carried unanimously.

**Annual Meeting and Volunteer Appreciation Dinner - Becky Olson from USRWA has agreed to be the guest speaker. Ron will contact Jacob Mills to see if he would be available to MC again this year. Set-up is scheduled from 2:00-2:30pm. The menu will be a Mexican fiesta, Board Members will provide desserts.

**Action Item:

Dane County Environmental Grant Ideas - The bidding process for a chainsaw discussed at the last meeting was withdrawn.

NEW BUSINESS:

****Horse Trail Passes for 2009**

Jean Warrior and Ted Bailey will handle horse trail passes for FoDP.

****Administrative position responsibilities:**

Barb will monitor the website and report to the administrator any necessary updates as needed. Barb will meet with Rhea and Pat to evaluate the position's duties for 2009.

****Data transfer:**

Barb and Vicki will work together on getting the data transfer to Quik Books.

REVIEW AND APPROVE BILLS: Bills were submitted totaling \$1,848.11. Motion by R.Parr/M.Feldt to approve bills. Motion carried unanimously.

NEXT BOARD MEETING:

Tuesday, March 17, 2009 6:30 p.m. at Springdale Town Hall.

Suggested Agenda Items:

Annual Meeting Details

Business Membership/Fundraising

ADJOURN:

Motion by T. Bailey/R. Parr to adjourn by unanimous consent at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Barb Hartman, Recording Secretary