

Minutes  
Friends of Croft  
March 14, 2016

Present: Will Beeker, James Horne, Stanley Bishop, Rick Henderson, Fern Powell, John Moon

Fern presided over the meeting

The minutes from the February 8, 2016, meeting were approved.

**Financials-** Rick said that the current balance in the checkbook for all accounts was \$21,084.73. The REI account was up-to-date. Fern noted she used the COSTCO card to buy candy for the Hop into Croft Event and Rick noted that he needed the amount of the purchase to keep tabs of the balance remaining on the card.

**Hop into Croft-** The event is scheduled for March 26 starting at 10:00 a.m. Those who have volunteered to work are Fern, James, Will, Stanley and nine boy scouts from a local troop. All volunteers would need to get to the park between 8:00-8:30 a.m. It was noted that Bob may get \$500 from Kohls. Items needed are the plastic eggs (1000), candy, balloons, etc.

**Fishing for Fun-** It was noted that we need the t-shirts for this event, including about 25 for the adults who will help with the event. It was also noted that we do not know exactly how much money Bob will get from the local WalMart stores for this event. It was mentioned that in the previous meeting the amount was \$3000. Some wanted not to go very far in advertising the event but the group, in Bob's absence, wanted to wait to get his opinion.

**Half Marathon-** Fern said that Mike Dixon had been contacted regarding the liability insurance for this event. Will had talked to Seth Novak and Seth does not have the time to promote and manage the event. Jimmy Stevens, who manages such events, has talked to Fern and said that he would take charge of the event with 15% of the proceeds going to FOC and 85% going to him. This matter was discussed at length and it was decided to wait and contact Jimmy to see if the percentages might be negotiable since there was a concern that FOC may be responsible for liability insurance and might just break even and take in nothing. Fern is to contact Jimmy. It was mentioned that we need to know how much money sponsors are paying into the event, a list of sponsors, number of individuals running and how the event is to be advertised. John said that the number participating may be limited to 150 to 175 with 200 being the absolute cap. John said that the Croft Half-Marathon would be an excellent opportunity for the FOC group to do something extra to make the event better. Will suggested a breakfast before the event and pattern it in the same way as Stump Jump, with vendors, packet pic-ups, etc.

**National Trails Day:** Event is scheduled for June 4, 2016. Friends of Croft will do the supper, cooking hot dogs and hamburgers, for the participants. According to a Palmetto Conservation representative, participants in this event may “**not need**” to be a member of Palmetto Conservation to participate this year, thus potentially increasing the number of participants substantially.

**Work needed on trails:** Rick said that work is currently being done on the Fairforest Creek Trail (a multi-use trail) and \$2500 was needed. John said that he would write another \$5000 REI Grant. Rick noted that two PVC culverts were currently needed on this trail as well as gravel. He noted that most of the trail has been redone or rerouted. Two culverts are now needed. The cost of the two twenty foot long culverts, one 15” and the other 20”, would be about \$280 (for both). Will is to check with someone he knows to see if we can get the culverts cheaper. A motion was made to initially spend \$1000 for the Fairforest Creek Trail project. Motion was seconded and passed. Because of the terrain on most trails, a durable and sturdy trailer/wagon was needed to transport gravel to various locations. Most trailers looked at in the cheaper range, \$300-400, would not hold up. Rick and Stanley agreed and had looked at them. Therefore Rick suggested that the FOC board consider purchasing a dependable and sturdy one to haul up to 500 pounds whose cost would vary from \$750 to \$1000. Rick said that this trailer was a current need and that the group needed to make a decision in the next meeting. All appeared to be in agreement with Rick. It was also mentioned that the balance of the REI Grant must be spent by December (\$2900).

**Other Business:**

- Stanley said that he would be willing to put together and forward information, pictures etc. to the webmaster for the website, Friends of Croft. The site needs updating.
- Fern noted that the next trash pick-up on Dairy Ridge is scheduled for April 9 at 8:30 a.m.
- John noted Dan Bell will look at Antioch Cemetery soon.
- Will noted he could get carsonite signs at no cost through SORBA and that he needed the number needed for the trails (horse, multi-use, cycling) and the sizes for intersections, blazers and mile markers. John noted that the mile markers would be of great benefit to park employees since those who get lost, most of whom call on their cells, do not know their whereabouts. It was noted that there are 51 intersections.

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

The next meeting is Monday, April 11, 2016, at St. Paul Methodist Church- 6:30 p.m.

