

June 8, 2015

Minutes

Friends of Croft

Present: Stanley Bishop, Rick Henderson, John Moon, Michael Paschal (Park Ranger), Fern Powell, Gary Purinton, Bob Williams

Fern presided over the meeting. She gave all present an agenda. The minutes for the May 11 meeting were approved.

John informed the group that Michael Paschal wanted to manage the half-marathon and Michael would speak later in the meeting about this.

Financials: Rick noted the current balance was \$17,150.39. The only outstanding bill is that of the \$150 quarterly bill due to the manager of FOC website. He said the final figure of \$4,692 was spent this year on the spring Fishing for Fun event and that \$2711 was spent last year. He said that \$1000 more was spent this year on rods and reels. He noted that these rod and reels (approx. \$1000 worth) were not used and could be used later. The liability coverage for this year's event was \$438. The renting of porta potties was also an additional cost this year. He gave the balance in the Kids Account as \$3,590 which is available for the fall Neewollah event. Rick mentioned the \$433 received for the kayak raffle and asked the FOC group into which fund it should be placed. Bob made the motion to put it in the general fund. Gary seconded the motion and it was passed. The general fund balance was \$4,975.

Because of a recent incident at a local store on the part of an individual representing another organization, Bob suggested that we consider disassociating ourselves (FOC group) with the other group.

As a support group for Croft State Park, Bob suggested that John bring his needs to the FOC Board and they will vote on the needs. Bob also stated that it would be a good idea to join GuideStar, a financial oversight organization for non-profits. Membership is \$35 per year.

Bathroom Renovation:

Bob stated that Home Depot and Lowes are willing to donate certain materials to the bathroom renovation. John said that we have approximately \$8000 in the account for renovations and that the state may appropriate \$25,000. This decision by the state will be made this winter.

Upcoming Event on June 28, 2015: Stump Jump

Gary stated that the Mountain Biking Club along with Spartanburg City Parks is sponsoring the Stump Jump which will gather in the area of the old landfill. The event management is on-line. Whether or not FOC should make a donation to this event was discussed. Board members discussed the possibility of having the FOC logo on the shirts which will be given to participants. Gary noted that this would be done. Bob made the motion to donate \$250 for the t-shirts and Rick seconded. The motion passed.

REI Grant for trails:

John noted that he and Rick had talked about the new bridge that is to be constructed and other specifics regarding trails at Southside. He said that he had the layout for the bridge and needed to get everything else

decided upon in spending the \$6,500 REI Grant. This money is to be spent by December 2016. He said that it was difficult to make decisions when too many individuals are involved and suggested that the bikers have one person to work with them in making decisions. Gary said that Will is SAMBA's trail person and that he would work with the park officials in making decisions regarding trails. Rick asked about signs that would indicate "jumps" or alternative "bail-out" routes. Bob stated that whatever John, Rick, Gary and SAMBA (Will) decide on with the trails, the FOC Board should vote on it. Bob also noted that we should take lots of pictures of what we do relating to trail work, construction, events, etc. to give to REI.

Neewollah Event: October, 24 2015

Again, it was noted that the FOC group will sponsor this event and Croft State Park will be responsible for the hay ride. John emphasized that we need lots of volunteers for this event. Gary said he will check with the Outdoor Club at Spartanburg High to see if any students will volunteer at the event for service time. Bob said that he would contact Dante ASAP so that this event would be on the magician's schedule.

Camp Croft Half Marathon:

John had mentioned earlier that the prize money given to winners was a problem since some accomplished distance runners go from marathon to marathon just for the prize money. This may have discouraged other runners from participating in the Half Marathon at Croft State Park since they had no chance of winning or placing. Michael Paschal said that he had talked with Seth Novak and that they had decided not to give prize money. They felt that this would bring in more participants. Michael noted that he had the sponsor's names who make donations going to purchase t-shirts, mugs, etc. Depending on the participation, he said that the park may possibly get as much as \$1000 for this event. Michael stated that the costs associated with this event were 2% of entrance fee to be paid to Go Green (they do the timing), event liability coverage and a cost for having EMS present at the event. The entrance fee for each runner is \$65. The field of runners will be limited to 150. Bob suggested that Michael develop a budget showing projected income and expenditures along with a marketing plan. Bob also stated that he preferred that the Half Marathon remain independent of FOC. As with last year's event, FOC volunteers will man the tables along the running courses.

Other business:

John said that he could use some new host sites for those who volunteer in working at the park. He asked if FOC would fund two of these sites. Bob made the motion to donate \$1500 for new host sites. Rick seconded the motion and it was passed.

John also noted that FOC could raise money at the park's boat house. He said that he could use volunteer boathouse attendants working on weekends to monitor boats and sell drinks for FOC.

Bob suggested donating the unused t-shirts for FFF to the park in order that they might sell them. A motion was made by Gary to donate the additional FFF t-shirts to Croft State Park so that they can sell them at the suggested price of \$4.99. Motion was seconded and passed.

The FOC group decided not to do the Fall Fishing for Fun Event.

Fern noted that the next trash pic-up on Dairy Ridge Road will be in September.

Next scheduled meeting for FOC is July 13, 2015 at 6:30.

Motion made and seconded to adjourn.