

Fair Hill Nature and Environmental Center
Minutes from the Board of Director's Meeting
May 7, 2008

Attendees: Ron Perkins
Guy Palmeri
Joe Clancy
Holly Hannum
Jim Sopa
Tina Freudenberger

- Ron opened with a change to the by-laws of the Nature Center. Current by-laws state that to have a quorum we need to have 7 board members vote. Ron would like the change to reflect a quorum being $\frac{1}{2}$ plus 1 of the board members. That way we are not stuck with a specific number and we would be able to have a quorum at a simple majority of the board members. Ron stated that he had previously spoken to both Paul Cahill and Dave Vanaskey. And they both voted in favor of changing the by-laws. Guy Palmeri motioned to accept the change and Tina seconded the motion. Motion was approved. Ron will contact Jerry Hendricks to make the appropriate changes to the online by-laws.

- Ron asked if we could approve the minutes from last meeting. Guy Palmeri motioned and Joe Clancy seconded the motion. Meeting minutes approved.

- Chamber Business Card Exchange – went very well. It appears that at least one attendee would like to become a board member and one additional attendee is contemplating becoming a board member. Chamber was pleased with the turnout and sent a letter thanking Ron and the board. Cost for the event was approximately \$400-\$500. We might have another card exchange in September. Ron to contact Chamber for arrangements.

- Ron wants all board members to review the current by-laws to determine if additional changes need to be implemented. All board members are asked to review the by-laws by next meeting and make comments if changes are warranted.

- Holly reviewed the school report. See attached report from Holly. Main discussion involved the hiring of Nichole (one of our teachers) by Wayne of DNR to be a naturalist. Would necessitate her being in on weekends to run programs for DNR.

- Holly also will be working on training materials for the current teachers to help with remembering all of the nuances and details upon employment at the center. We also discussed the issue of special needs children and how that will be handled by Nature Center Staff. Ron indicated that all special needs children should have a paraprofessional on hand during the field trips. Holly will also contact Frank of CCPS to make sure of the details.

- Maintenance report – Several items came to light that need to be addressed. Ron to get with Paul Cahill to address most of the issues. It was suggested that someone seek out information to determine if some of the larger items on the list could be fixed with grant money.

- Tina – review of Finances – it appears that approximately \$20,000 in previous funding will not be available this year. These funds were a one time grant. Ron will contact Dennis Clower to see about additional money.

- Calendar report – we will be setting up a Nature Center/ Arts Council photo contest to win a spot on the calendar for 2009. Arts Council had agreed to judge entries. Ron and Dave to speak with the Arts Council and the Whig to finalize details.

- Sponsorships need to be nailed down by June 15th. This is a drop dead date. Tina suggested we see how well things are going by the 4th of June so we know how close we are to our goal. Anyone with sponsorship contacts, please let Ron know or try to set it up yourself.

- Sept 15th is last possible print date.

- Next meeting June 4th

Outdoor School Report May '08

School classes are progressing well. Bus scheduling changes have alleviated some issues with late buses. Spring classes for grades 1, 5, and 3 have been completed. We are currently teaching grade 2. Grade 4 begins on May 16. In addition to CCPS, this spring we will be hosting classes from Sanford School, Leisure Elementary, North East Methodist preschool, Wilmington Christian, St. Joan of Arc, and St. Matthews School. Classes will end on June 9. Envirothon teams competed today.

Judy Maxwell and I presented at North East Middle School's Earth Day celebration on April 18. I attended Career Day at Gilpin Manor on May 5.

We had 150 people at our April 11 Frog Frenzy. It went smoothly in spite of the crowd. We got 4 new family memberships. We had 12 people for our spring Wildflower Walk and 8 volunteers participated in the SWAT Clean-up on April 19.

Summer camps are filling steadily. As of May 6 we had 126 campers' registered (202 total spots) 2 camps are full. We are currently scheduling special guests to appear at each week of camp. Rick Waterhouse has agreed to perform week #3. Cole Wertz will explain beekeeping week #4. We have asked Dan Calhoun, a local herpetologist to show his frogs week #2. Any ideas for week #1? Volunteer orientation for camp will be June 9 at 6:30pm.

The park has hired Nicole Heinrich as a seasonal naturalist. She will work out of the Nature Center 16 hours a week starting next week. The Center will be open on weekends and she will be running programs with our equipment. I am optimistic that this joint venture will benefit both parties.

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