

Fair Hill Nature Center Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
6:30 p.m., January 14, 2009 at ST Publishing office

Attendees: Karen Aspinwall, Paul Cahill, Joe Clancy, Mario Gangemi, Holly Hannum, Guy Palmeri, Dan Schneckenburger.

- I. Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Tina Freudenberger was not in attendance, but provided a report which summarized the financial picture. Checking account balance of \$14,916 in two accounts (PNC Bank account to be closed soon to complete conversion to Cecil Bank). Total revenue for 2008 of \$114,365. Total expenses of \$107,796. Holly mentioned that Outreach expenses would likely be less than anticipated. Dan mentioned a potential donation from Old Dominion Electric.
- II. SpringFest. The nature center is planning to bring back the SpringFest public program for 2009. Held for several years in the past, the event raised awareness and funds for the center while showcasing the center's work and community benefits. Currently scheduled May 9 (but possibly moving to May 2) at the fairgrounds. Dan will spearhead sponsor participation and planning. Early plans call for children's games, food, drink, perhaps a potted plant sale for Mother's Day. The board discussed combining the SpringFest with an environmental fair (also involving Karen's work at the Cooperative Extension) and a "green expo" that could environmental vendors, 4H participation, etc. Karen will move forward with her proposed portion of the event, Dan will look into available dates and use of the Ed Walls Center at Fair Hill with a SpringFest planning meeting to come.
- III. Staff Position. The board briefly discussed the pending open position and set a goal to have a person in place by March 1 to provide adequate training and lead in to the school calendar.
- IV. School Report. Holly updated the board on activities at the nature center.
  - Kindergarten Outreach Program. The nature center is visiting 11 of the county's 17 elementary schools, with three Delaware schools also on the schedule. Revenue from Leeds Elementary School PTO and the Cecilton Lions Club helped fund the programs. Cecil County Public Schools science coordinator Frank Cardo saw a recent outreach program and Holly will send a note thanking him for coming and reaching out to discuss next school year budget.
  - Preschool Program. The board pledged support of a preschool program and authorized a one-time expense to facilitate the first such program at West Nottingham Presbyterian. The board and staff will continue to pursue further details in this area.
- V. New Business.
  - Dan will reach out to the Tri-State Bird Rescue about potential joint efforts.
  - The nature center will host a Cecil County Chamber of Commerce business card exchange in April.
  - Upcoming nature center programs include dogsleds February 8 and bluebirds/maple sugaring March 7.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.