

FAIRHILL NATURE CENTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

APRIL 10, 1996

ATTENDEES: Jim Campbell, Bill Ide, Jerry Hendricks, Karen Aspenwall, Holly Hannum, Francis Slaughter, Robert Carroll, Keith Phillips

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 P.M.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Nature School - Holly

- a. Trail Day was a success. 80 volunteer hours were logged by 8 kids and 7 adults. Most of their efforts were expended on repairing damage incurred by the trails from the winter.
- b. The school is booked through June 6. An additional 458 students have signed up this year. It was reported that some requests from schools were turned down.
- c. Thirty-one students have enrolled in the summer camp so far. This is a good number for this time of the year.
- d. A meeting has been set up with the Cecil County Principals for April 16. Karen and Holly will attend to instruct the principals on filling out the necessary paperwork to request grants from the Cheaseapeake Trust Foundation.

2. Grants - Karen

- a. A telecon was held with Rick Leader, formerly with the Trust, on the status of the Trust. There is a chance that the management of the Trust will be handled by DNR in the future. Rick said that the Trust's Board was inclined to do this. At this time there is only speculation on how this will effect the grants that we receive. Karen has taken an action to keep abreast of this situation.
- b. We have received a \$5000 grant from WAL-MART. The check has not arrived yet. A publicity meeting must be set up for accepting the check from them.
- c. Bill Reybold from Waterfowl Festival, Inc. talked to Karen on the possibility of a grant from them. He said that \$5000 has been recommended to their board for a grant to be used for either a third grade habitat project or on the marsh.

3. April/Fair Hill Nature Center Month - Karen

- a. The Friday night events are getting a better response as of right now. Bob Willman will do the frog program this Friday.

- b. A Girl Scout Troop will be here on a Sunday to do a conservation project.
- c. The gift shop's supplies have diminished. Karen took the action to order new stocks to replenish the store. Unfortunately they will not be in time for this weekend. She reported that a new style for the T-shirts has been designed and that they will look nice.

4. **Foundation Business - Karen**

- a. Patchel Landis is a new volunteer that has been coming out every Wednesday to help out at the Center. His enthusiasm and handiness has been greatly appreciated at the Center.
- b. We have now started to track volunteer hours. This should be helpful when applying to some organizations for grants. Karen showed the board how they should fill out the log when they volunteer time.
- c. Four new family memberships have been received.
- d. Donations of \$98 have been received.
- e. In response to the latest Habitat request, numerous donations-in-kind were received.
- f. Karen spoke at the April 3 Rising Sun Garden Club Meeting. They donated some wild flowers for the butterfly trail.
- g. On April 19, Karen and Holly will attend Zeneca's Earth Day event and exhibit.

5. **Budget - Karen**

- a. A first draft budget was submitted for the remainder of this year. This is a first time for this type of financial planning. The budget included a rough cut listing of forecasted expenses and expected revenues. We need to spend some time on formulating some fund raising activities. As expected in most first draft budgets, the expenses out paced the revenues. Consensus was reached by the board to take action on this matter.

6. **Open Discussion**

- a. Jim presented a donation of \$75 received from students at the North East Middle School from monies that they generated from activities outside of school, i.e. their recycling program. Holly took an action to write a special thank you letter to them.
- b. Jerry talked about his conversation with the March for Parks and Volksmarch people. We could of had a march for Fair Hill on Trail Day this year with Volksmarch people but a time of notification period of ninety days was unknown and passed for this year. A consensus was reached that we proceed with planning to support a March for Fair Hill next year.

- c. Jerry and Karen reported that a planning committee is being formed for the "future of the Fair Hill Area". This is in support of DNR. It was agreed that the nature center needs some way of keeping current with this committee.
- d. A planning committee for this years' Family Fun Day was formed and will meet on:
MAY 1 AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE NATURE CENTER.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

KWP/cd.

NEXT MEETING IS ON MAY 8 AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE NATURE CENTER.