

Friends of Yellow Creek (FOYC) Minutes  
1/20/11

Attendance: Ken Sherwood, Ken Bisbee, Vickie Shank, Cindy Rogers, Ben Schirf, , Kelly Thompson

Minutes for November: Motion to approve Kelly , seconded Vicky, all approved

Announcements and general comments:

Ken B. Yellow Creek updates:

- Yellow Creek is the first in Nation to use Green Measuring tool – YC reduced our carbon emissions in three years by 20%. Department came out with a newsletter congratulating us. Congratulations to Ken and Yellow Creek Staff!
- Had major budget review – spent 80% of budget – It has been decreased over the past few years but it will be an interesting year budget wise.
- One thing we wanted to do was indoor displays for environmental education – got about \$28,000 for displays here. Project for this building started in 2001. The display will be a self guided tour with many different topics.
- Our Bureau got a letter from an energy company (MDS Energy) to drill Marcellus Shale gas in the park. Our response was for them to prove they have contractual rights for the minerals. If they do have the rights we will try and minimize the land and resource impact.

Service/Park Improvements

Playground mulching – Thanks to all who helped

PR:

We are now members of the tourist bureau. Cost was \$48.00 a year

We can use their calendar, will be listed on web site, flier distribution service (if we give them 500 they will distribute in county locations), in the future they might will be able to help with distribution costs.

We want a minimum of 750-1500 copies depending on the price. Ken will check local, Kelly will check other places. \*Motion to get 750-1500 at most economical rate, Vicki made the motion, seconded Kelly – all approved.

Date for Fall Festival:

Birds of Prey for FOP was booked on Sept 24<sup>th</sup>. We decided on that date for the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual. September festival. (It is also Brush Valley Days, Clymer Day, and the Potato festival in Ebensburg but we felt that was the best date). Vicki volunteered to be in charge of the food for the festival. We can include that date in the tourist bureau calendar.

Membership and Finance Report, Kelly reported for the annual report :

#### Revenue:

Membership \$273

Contributions \$150

Contributions Corporate \$711

Special events \$1,768.40

Total \$2,902.40

#### Costs:

Washer and dryer was paid for but not yet received – \$960.00 Tax was paid but should be reimbursed

\$100 to Aaron K for trail signs

\$100 to Simple Inks for T-shirts

We have approximately 1,100 remaining to spend that is not dedicated to an approved item

Kelly will pursue a letter writing campaign to raise funds to corporate and businesses.

Grant – Cindy/Ken submitted a grant to Norcross for the cost of the washer and dryer – about 800 dollars – had to send in additional information – should hear in a few weeks if it was approved.

#### Projects for the Spring:

- Ken S. will put out potential dates for a March work date to spread chips in existing playgrounds and then set a date depending on responses. Will include March 26<sup>th</sup> in the possibilities because it is a race date.
- He can schedule other work dates after in-put from Ken B on other actual projects. Potential projects may be:
- For work on new playground, Park Staff will need to work on it before volunteers come in.
- Trail grooming

#### Cycling

- Kelly reported – the monthly race series has been the biggest money raiser for us. It is successful, includes 130 attendees over a 6 month period. These were included in volunteers for the annual report.
- Ken met with AJ – laid out a new beginners loop. They walked it to check for native species of concern.
- Jay Thompson and Ben need to meet with Ken about the Ride YC race to plan and organize various issues.
- Month of Mud Series is an option. That would bring in a lot of people. Bike the Wilds is another race. We do a very good job with the trails and organization. Ken can do a special agreement that costs \$50.00 that will last 5 years for the race series.

#### Boating Report

- Fish and Boat Grant: not appropriate to get this at this time. We will look at it again in the future.
- Handicapped boating ramp: Cindy has looked for appropriate grants and has not found anything. Ben contacted a relative who is handicapped who kayaks in the west. She may have come ideas for grant possibilities. Marcellus Shale may be a possibility. Gas and Oil has contributed to projects like this in other states. EZDocks was the company who had the ramps ready to install.

- Puddle Duck Racers (PDR's) We will build 5 boats on February 19<sup>th</sup>. We have 6 families who will be building a boat. Members can stop by and help lend a hand.

For annual report volunteer hours:

AJ logs all the trail maintenance volunteer hours and turns it in to the Parks.

Cycling hours

Playground event – 5 people at 4 hours each.

Board and planning meeting hours

Sept ember festival volunteers

IUP Boat rental volunteer hours

Vicki will send a list of volunteers from the Fest.

Proposed Question:

Would FOYC want to get involved with grooming X-country trails? A weighted two track for most skiers is a possibility. Another style of grooming is for skating – a wider track. We should keep our minds open for the future. The local bike store on Philadelphia Street rents X-Country skies.

Next Meeting: February 10, 2011

Discussion on meeting days:

We will continue to meet on the second Thursday of the month for now.

Meeting adjourned 8:15

\* = motion made during meeting.

Submitted by Cindy Rogers