

FRIENDS OF JACKSON COUNTY CONSERVATION

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES—Tuesday, January 12, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chair, Jeremy Meyer.

The minutes of the previous meeting were presented by Sandra Walton. The motion to approve the minutes, as presented, was made by Ann Burns, 2nd by Jessica Wagner. Motion passed.

The treasurer's report as of 12/31/15 was presented by Treasurer Pro Tem, Julie Reuter. The motion to approve the report was made by Wagner, 2nd by Kathi Atkinson. Motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Bookkeeping—no report

Gift Shop—Wagner reported that there was a \$500.00 profit during the last quarter. She also stated that they are considering purchasing a bar code reader, to go with the tablet won by the Friends earlier, to use for inventory.

Membership—no report

Fundraisers—Emily Highnam reported that ideas for future fundraising efforts included a Taco Bar with raffle items available, a Trivia Night, and a 5 K race at Prairie Creek. She also reported that the Conservation Board is asking if we would be interested in fundraising for a shelter at Prairie Creek. It would be 4-season with a fireplace and restrooms at a cost of approximately \$118,000. Parks to People would cover 15% of this cost leaving \$100,000. Kathi Atkinson moved for the Friends to move forward on fundraising the \$100,000 for the shelter with a 2nd by Ann Burns. Motion passed on an 11 to 1 vote.

Programs/Events—Jessica Wagner summarized upcoming programs. She made special mention of the Bald Eagle Watch in Dubuque on January 16. She passed around a sheet for people to sign up to work at the Jackson County Conservation table. She also mentioned that there would be a Block Party on February 5, 2016, from 4-7 pm, at the Roshek Building in Dubuque and asked for 1-2 people to help.

Bus Grants—Wagner reported that no new grants have been awarded since the last General Meeting. A group from Rock Island High School was turned down because schools receiving grants must be in Jackson County.

OLD BUSINESS:

Hurstville Marsh Water Pump—Wagner reported that work on the water pump will commence on July 1, 2016.

NEW BUSINESS

Summer Naturalist Intern—Motion made to fund summer intern for up to \$2,000 by Karen Manning with 2nd by Pam True. Motion passed.

MCMF Youth Corps—Wagner reported that the high school youth program led by Jen Meyer is requesting \$125 to pay for start and end dinners for participants and their families. Burns moved to fund the \$125 with 2nd by Manning. Motion passed.

7th Grade Isle Royale Trip—Wagner reported that Jessica Hingtgen, the teacher leading the trip, sent a letter requesting help in funding this year's trip. True made a motion to fund the trip with up to \$1,250, 2nd by Manning. Motion passed.

EE Equipment—Wagner reported that current binoculars used with grade schoolers are in very poor condition and that they also are looking to start replacing old, plastic snowshoes. Eagle Optics has 6.5 X 32 binoculars that would be excellent and when 3 are purchased, they provide 3 more for free. Manning moved to buy 6 sets of binoculars from Eagle Optics, and receive 6 free, at a cost of up to \$600 with a 2nd by Barb McCray. Motion passed.

Playscape Additions—Emily Highnam reported that they are looking at possibly adding a sandbox and a play fort but no final proposals have been completed at this point. They will have more information at the April General Meeting.

Outside Speaker Programs—Wagner reported that for more variety they would like to look into hiring outside speakers. Atkinson moved to fund outside speakers with up to \$500, 2nd by Burns. Motion passed. Ann Burns and Sandra Walton volunteered to be on a committee to look at possible speakers.

Safari Program—Mc Cray moved to fund up to \$50 to the Safari program, 2nd by Burns. Motion passed.

OTHER BUSINESS

Volunteer Fair—Wagner reported that Art Experience is willing to host the event this year. No date has been set at this time. Ann Burns volunteered to staff a booth at the event.

Motion to adjourn was made by Wagner, 2nd by Dave Lauricha. Motion passed.

Chair Meyer adjourned the meeting at 8:20 pm.

The next meeting is on Tuesday, April 12, 2016, at the Hurstville Interpretive Center.

Respectively submitted,

Sandra Walton, Secretary