

Friends of Portage Lakes State Park

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Minutes of the Meeting
Friends of Portage Lakes State Park Board
Thursday, May 12, 2011 (Approved by board, June 9, 2011)

The May meeting of the Board of Directors for the Friends of Portage Lakes State Park was held at The Bistro of Green, 3459 Massillon Road, Uniontown, OH 44685. A quorum was present.

Present: Larry Hunter, Tom Fry, Tom Burge, Mark Snyder, Lynn Stamp, and Lew Stamp

Larry Hunter called the meeting to order at 6:15 PM.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

A motion was put forward by Lynn Stamp and seconded by Tom Fry to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2011 minutes as written. All were in favor, motion carried.

President's Report (Larry Hunter):

President Hunter reported that he is working with Todd Metz on the Bird and Butterfly Trail. He further stated that the Division of Wildlife might be working with us on clearing the Bird and Butterfly Trail.

President Hunter reported that Todd Metz and Bruce Carpenter are working on hiring a naturalist for the Portage Lakes Area.

Vice President's Report (Tom Fry)

Vice President Fry reported that he is working with Bisesi's on finalizing the Bike-A-Thon for Pirate Day's. Fry will have additional information at the next board meeting.

Treasurer's Report (Tom Burge)

Treasurer Burge reported that he is finishing the 2010 financial data first and will move to the 2011 data next. As the 2010, financial data is needed before the 2011.

Secretary's Report (Mark Snyder):

Secretary Snyder reported that the Friends of Portage Lakes State Park has received non-profit postage status with the United States Postal Services. Burge asked Snyder a few questions regarding postage rates. Snyder reported that the postage rates are dependent upon the items being mail the amount of mail being sent.

Director's Report (Lynn Stamp):

Stamp reported that we the "Friends" have many items still open that needs cleared up before moving forward on any new issues.

Director's Report (Lew Stamp):

Education Chairperson Stamp provided a brief report on the Education Committee and the duties it is tasked with and the forthcoming speakers.

Announcements and Reports

Portage Lakes Kiwanis Plant Swap Fundraiser, May 21, 2011:

Lynn Stamp made a motion to approve the one-day fundraiser of the Warm Box for the Friends of Portage Lakes State Park; Mark Snyder seconded motion. A discussion followed the motion with comments as what is the fundraiser, the costs associated with the fundraiser, and the benefits of the fundraiser. All were in favor, motion carried.

Portage Lakes Boat & Fishing Swap Meet, May 14, 2011:

President Hunter reported that the Friends of Portage Lakes State Park would share a table with the Portage Lakes Advisory Council, Portage Lakes Purple Martin Association, and Portage Lakes Kiwanis at the event.

Portage Lakes Pirate Days:

Hunter reported on the status of Pirate Days in the Portage Lakes and still wants the group to do an event, i.e. 5K Run. Summit Athletic Running Club - Race Services, is providing race services. Further discussion followed regarding the 5K Run and other events that were scheduled by various organizations. Hunter also reported that the Boat Parade for the event is looking for a sponsor still.

Fry reported that he is still working on the Bike event but needs further guidance in the matter. Discussion followed regarding the possibility of having a sponsored event by a local bike shop and will have additional information at the next board meeting.

Hunter brought up the possible shared purchase for a tent. Further information is needed before a decision can be made to the board and then the group. We will discuss this at the next board meeting.

Bank of America Meeting:

Snyder reported that the meeting with Bank of America is forthcoming we are waiting on a return email from Michelle Larkins on the request of the President to have a face-to-face meeting. Snyder will keep the board informed as the details become available.

Committee Reports:

Grant Committee Report (Mark Snyder):

Snyder reported on the 2011 grant report and committee formation. The grant committee is still seeking individuals to serve. Discussion followed regarding the various stages in grant writing and the general opinion of the board.

Bank of America Grant Mark Krohn will be providing the board with a legal review of the grant request.

Education Committee (Lew Stamp):

Lew Stamp reported that Sarah Matheny will be the guest speaker at May Meeting. Stamp further reported that we might be having a local fishing club provide a presentation as a future program.

Lynn Stamp reported that the Metro Parks Serving Summit County as agreed to provide speakers for the group. Lynn noted however, that this is outside of the normal speaking season and the Metro Parks are willing due to their relationship with Lynn.

Bird and Butterfly Committee (Larry Hunter):

Hunter reported that the Bird and Butterfly Trail is coming along at this time. He is hoping to have an area clean in the coming weeks.

Lynn Stamp provided feedback from a few people who attended the organizing meeting held in April. A future committee meeting is pending at this time.

A short discussion followed on grants for the program. Hunter pointed out that he would like to see if we could get the trail ADA accessible. Snyder pointed out that this is one area that grants could help and will provide more information at the next board meeting.

Dog Park Committee (Mark Snyder):

Mark Snyder reported that he is working on forming a new committee for the New Dog Park; Snyder is working on having a public meeting in the coming weeks and will keep the group informed on the project. Snyder stated that we might need to step back from the current plans and reexamine the project and usefulness of a new dog park. Tom Fry will be contacting Scott Shookman in the coming days to see if he is willing to assist us in this area.

Snyder further stated that he is working on the 2011 Bark in the Park. Lew Stamp stated that a "Bark in the Park" is occurring in Springfield over the weekend and it might be a good chance to get vendors for our event.

Snyder and Lynn Stamp asked if any wrap up is needed from the 2010 Bark in the Park. Discussion followed.

Public Relations Committee (Lynn Stamp and Mark Snyder):

A short discussion followed regarding the purchase of promotional items for the Friends group, prices will be sought and discuss at the next board meeting. The topic of a new banner for the Friends was brought up and discussion will occur at the next board meeting once pricing can be obtained.

A short discussion followed regarding the use of media and what image we want the media to have and what programs to push for media coverage.

New Business:

Insurance for the Friends of Portage Lakes State Park (Mark Snyder):

Snyder asked the group questions regarding the insurance and whether we should obtain Officers and Directors coverage. A short discussion followed and more information will be presented at the next board meeting. Snyder is going to try to receive several quotes from insurance companies and possibly have agent's present information to the board.

Position on drilling and logging in Ohio State Parks (tabled to next meeting)

Old Business:

Park and Trail Maintenance, New Portage Lakes State Park (tabled to next meeting)

Larry Hunter adjourned the meeting at 8:05 PM.

The next meeting of the Friends of Portage Lakes State Park Board of Directors is scheduled for June 9, 2011 at 6 PM, Dietz's Landing, 401 West Turkeyfoot Lake Road, Akron, OH 44319.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark A. Snyder, Secretary