

Friends of Portage Lakes State Park

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Minutes of the Meeting
Friends of Portage Lakes State Park
Thursday, March 17, 2011 (Approved by membership, April 21, 2011)

The March meeting of the Friends of Portage Lakes State Park was held at the Portage Lakes Kiwanis Civic Center, 725 Portage Lakes Drive, Akron, OH 44319. A quorum was present.

Present: Larry Hunter (President), Tom Fry (Vice President), Mark Snyder (Secretary), Lynn Stamp (Director), Jerry Davis, Laura Davis, Carol Eubank, Jim Frost, Margaret Frost, Sarah Matheny, Lew Stamp, Larry Yothers, and Carol Zeh.

Guests: Mayor Al Bollas, Wanda Vigar, Rick Watson, and Tammy Watson

Larry Hunter called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

A motion to approve the minutes of the Thursday, February 17, 2011 meeting as submitted by Lynn Stamp, Acting Secretary, was moved by Tom Fry and seconded by Jim Frost. All were in favor, motion carried.

President's Report / State Park Report (Larry Hunter):

President Hunter reported that the ODNR has announced a plan to rehabilitate Portage Lakes State Park's West Reservoir dam and spillway for repairs. The closing would be for about 4 months have has been delayed until after Labor Day.

President Hunter reported that Pirate Day's in the Portage Lakes is scheduled for the 15th to 24th of July 2011 with several activities scheduled. The following media outlets will be used: Portage Lakes Legends, Portage Lakes Navigator, The Suburbanite, and the South Side Leader for advertising of events. Friends of Portage Lakes State Park still need to decide what event we are hosting during the week in addition to the Treasure Hunt. Hunter reported that the Portage Lakes Disc Golf Association is hopeful that all eighteen holes will be completed by the event.

President Hunter had a meeting with Bruce Carpenter and Todd Metz at Wingfoot State Park this morning to discuss several issues related to Friends of Portage Lakes State Park a brief report follows.

President Hunter reported that either the Friends or the state need to start work on clearing the dog park / bird and butterfly trail, clearing trees and debris from the area.

President Hunter reported that rumors are spreading to the future of the State Park Office and Barn in the Portage Lakes State Park. We are waiting on a status report from Bruce Carpenter and Todd Metz on the future of the buildings. Hunter would like to see if the Friends are interested in leasing the office and barn tabled until further information can be sought.

President Hunter gave a brief overview of the issues involved in hydraulic fracturing “fracking” in the Ohio State Parks including the dangers inherent in fracturing of the land.

Citizen Concerns (Guest, Tammy Watson, R.Ph.)

Guest, Tammy Watson, presented the group with concerns regarding the Portage Lakes State Park and Portage Lakes Disc Golf Association. A full copy of speech and handout are available by emailing secretary@friendsofportagelakes.org.

Member discussion followed Watson’s concerns, including that of Margaret Frost and Lynn Stamp wondering where the point of view of the park leadership stands. President Hunter asserted that this has happened in the past with Nimisila reservoir. Comments were made regarding the amount of play that actually occurs at the disc golf holes already completed. Earlier this year PLAC President Jody Holloway and Friends President Larry Hunter walked the last nine holes after reports were made that “people were clear cutting the park.” It was recommended per Watson’s that a meeting should occur at the park to review the last nine holes of the disc golf course. A meeting was arranged for Friday, March 18, 2011.

Citizen Concerns (Guest, Mayor of New Franklin, Al Bollas)

Guest, Mayor Al Bollas, reported that the City of New Franklin Police are now helping Park Rangers in securing the Portage Lakes State Park he further asserted that the police has seen an increase in the call volume of reports concerning the park.

Mayor Bollas further stated that he is also upset at the work being done by the Portage Lakes Disc Golf Association and would like to see action taken to control the clear cutting being done in preparation of the back nine.

Mayor Bollas provided further background to the West Reservoir dam and spillway closing and his personal feelings towards the matter.

Mayor Bollas reported that after a long battle that the city has finally acquired the Franklin Park Civic Center, “The Tudor House,” from the ODNR and provide a summary of the events occurring including the Second Annual Boat Show which is scheduled for May 14, 2011 and offered the Friends a table at the show.

Mayor Bollas reported that the Portage Lakes Ducks are always looking for projects to fund and that he feels the barn might be a good project.

Vice President's Report (Tom Fry)

No Report

Secretary Report (Mark Snyder)

No Report

Treasurer's Report (Tom Burge)

Interim Treasurer Jim Frost reported that the Bank Balance is \$5,516.78 according to the Bank Statement. Report filed subject to audit.

Director's Report (Lynn Stamp)

No Report

Old Business:

Bird and Butterfly Trail (Larry Hunter)

President Hunter reported that we will start work on the Bird and Butterfly Trail this year and that we are looking for a committee chair at this time to head up this project.

Chase Your Shadow 5K Race (Jerry Davis)

Jerry Davis reported that he presented Mr. Bill Anthony of the Portage Lakes IGA a plaque for his sponsorship of the Second Annual Chase Your Shadow event.

Race Treasurer Snyder reported that he is finishing the financial data for the race net profit is around \$3,100.00 for the successful event. We are waiting on a few last minutes items to come in so the financial data can be completed.

It was recommended that someone contact R.S. Racing Systems again to put the event on the schedule for next year.

Mark Snyder made a motion to hold the Third Annual Chase Your Shadow Race on Saturday, February 4, 2012 chaired by Jerry Davis motion was seconded by Tom Fry. All were in favor, motion carried.

Dog Park Report (Mark Snyder/Larry Hunter)

Mark Snyder resigned as Dog Park Chair.

President Hunter reported on the Dog Park and the funding request with Bank of America. After several failed attempts at meeting, due to weather and technology issues, we are trying again for a future date.

Portage Lakes Pirate Days (Larry Hunter)

President Hunter reported that he secured three additional endorsements for the event, Craftsman Park Boat Club, Dragon Dream Team of Ohio, and Portage Lakes Community Council. All the events for the week is coming together nicely at this time. Hunter reported that the Pirate Coins are now available for purchase. Snyder asked Sarah Matheny if she thought of an event yet, she has not.

By-law Committee (Margaret and Jim Frost)

Committee Chairperson Margaret Frost reported that the Suggested Amendments were given to the board this evening. The board accepted the proposed amendments for membership reading. The by-laws will be posted to the website, www.firendsofportagelakes.org for member review and comments prior to voting in April. The amendments require two readings by the members before voting.

Members Concerns (Carol Zeh)

Carol Zeh provided the Friends of Portage Lakes State Park with her concerns over the possibility of hydraulic fracturing “fracking” in Ohio State Parks. The Akron Beacon Journal reported on Thursday, March 17, 2011 “it will be at least six months and maybe longer before the Ohio Department of Natural Resources will be able to provide details on possibly drilling for natural gas or cutting more trees on state-owned lands to boost income.” Zeh has strong concerns over this issue and feels that this should not be allowed in the State Park.

New Business

Education Committee (Lynn Stamp)

Lynn Stamp made a motion to form an education committee to look into possible educational aspects the group could undertake motion seconded by Tom Fry. Discussion follow with comments as “do we need a committee.” Margaret Frost stated that we need education. All were in favor, motion carried.

Grant Committee (Mark Snyder)

Mark Snyder made a motion to form a grant committee to work on the pressing needs of the group motion was seconded by Jim Frost. All were in favor, motion carried.

Larry Hunter adjourned the meeting at 8:45 PM.

The next meeting for the Friends of Portage Lakes State Park is scheduled for Thursday, April 21, 2011, 7 PM, Portage Lakes Kiwanis Civic Center, 725 Portage Lakes Drive, Akron, Ohio 44319.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark A. Snyder, Secretary