

PINEY RUN RECREATION AND CONSERVATION COUNCIL

30 Martz Road
Sykesville MD 21784



Find us on Facebook: [Friends of Piney Run Park & Nature Center](#)

MEETING MINUTES Wednesday, September 21, 2022

ATTENDEES

| | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Claude Hoerner | Bud Henkel | Jean Redmond | Rita Jacobs |
| Max Bukowitz (C) | Diane Henkel | Bonny Kindt | Kelly Biggs |
| Linda Coyne | Erin Heinrich | Harold Jackson | Jon Biggs |
| Renee Schoff | Colleen Winters | Lorrie Voytek | Emily White (C) |
| Jeff Schoff | Hannah Schoff | Gina Porter (C) | |

(C) - Non-voting County employee

Colleen called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM. Introductions were made of new members and the new park superintendent, **Gina Porter**, who provided an overview of her park and naturalist experience.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the May 18, 2022 meeting were previously provided to all members, and no changes were offered at the meeting. **Bud** motioned for their acceptance, **Jeff** seconded, and the minutes were approved as submitted.

TREASURER'S REPORTS

Prior to the meeting, **Renee** provided two reports. The first covered the period 5/17/22 through 6/30/22, the end of fiscal year 2022. It showed that income for the year exceeded expenses by almost \$14,000.

The second report was for the period 7/1/22 through 9/19/22. Income was about \$1,500 against expenses of about \$300. Fall Festival expenses will start being incurred now. Gift basket raffle ticket sales have raised \$236 so far, including \$95 sold on our behalf by the Four County Quilters Guild at their annual Quilts in the

Park show. GoFundMe donations to the aviary reached \$10,000, and another \$14,662 was received in other contributions.

PARK OPERATIONS

Gina said the winter calendar has been put together and exciting programs and events are planned for the winter.

Park staffing is still a problem, having lost two rangers that recently returned to school. The gatehouse and boathouse remain open, and it is hoped they can remain open through the end of the season. **Gina** is trying to come up with ways to recruit and hire more people for next year.

Fall wagon rides are coming up, and almost all available slots are booked for September and October,

Patriot, the owl, had surgery for bumblefoot and is recuperating at Hashawa. He is expected to return to the park.

The gatehouse planting and the boathouse renovation are complete. Decorative stone was placed around the signs in the triangular area inside the park near the maintenance building, and flowers will be planted in that area.

The dome on the yurt has not yet been replaced but is expected to be replaced soon.

FRIENDS OF CARROLL RECREATION AND PARKS (FoCRP) COMMITTEE

Colleen reported that the FoCRP organization has mandated background checks for all volunteers regularly working with children as well as all recreation council executives. This requirement, as well as others, must be met in order to remain accredited with the County Recreation and Parks Department. The background check application is completed online and must be done each year.

Renee said that another requirement imposed by FoCRP is an annual financial audit conducted by three people who do not have access to council funds. **Erin**, **Rita**, and **Linda** volunteered to do this year's audit.

Renee mentioned another FoCRP requirement addressing public access to recreation council meetings. Part of this requirement is that meeting minutes must be made available to the public. **Erin** said she posted a Facebook event announcing this current Recreation Council meeting, and asked if the agenda should also be posted in the future. It was decided that this is a good idea,

NATURE CENTER OPERATIONS

Max said Summer Camp went great. The Camp Director was terrific and is planning to return next year. Organizing camp with 25 children in groups K-4 (children that completed kindergarten through 4th grade) worked well and will probably be done again.

A lot of kayak programs are being conducted, and school groups are starting to express interest in available nature center programs.

Fall Fest planning is going well. Vendors, food, and music are all arranged. The Recreation and Parks new marketing specialist is doing a lot of work to publicize the event for us.

NEW BUSINESS

Renee reported on Fall Festival preparations. The planning committee has been meeting about once a month. Supplies for the crafts are being assembled and signs are being made. She feels we are in good shape for the festival. **Lynn** said so far, only one person has volunteered to assist with parking for the festival, and more are needed. **Colleen** agreed to assist.

Renee said the Master Gardeners have proposed to do an event at Piney Run Park in conjunction with the Rec Council on Earth Day. It was proposed that the gardeners proceed with their planning and we will decide on our participation sometime after Fall Fest.

Max suggested we think about trying to sell pies baked by Hashawa during the holiday season, with customers ordering online and the Rec Council providing delivery service. Hashawa's availability to bake for us, however, is unknown at the time.

Gina is looking for volunteer fire tenders to assist with the wagon rides almost every weekend (Friday through Sunday) through the end of October. A few other times are also available. The only task required is to sit by the camp fire and ensure the fire remains under control. Volunteers should be at least 16 years old.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Jeff asked if the avian flu problem still exists. **Gina** said the danger has passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM.

The next general membership meeting of the Piney Run Recreation and Conservation Council will be Wednesday, November 16, at 6:30 PM in the Piney Run Park Nature Center