Minutes

Friends of Morrow Mt. State Park

Winter Board Meeting

Badin Treehouse

January 27, 2014, 2:00 p.m.

Vanessa Mullinix, Chair, called the meeting to order. The directors in attendance were Phil Lowder, Vanessa Mullinix, Walter Deppe, Jim Barfield, Tevis Smith and John Young.

There was a brief discussion about the need to go ahead and purchase both computer hardware and software to begin the project of digitally organizing the park’s history archives. Previously a committee had been appointed to help explore this history archive project and there is still support to work with Digital NC in the future. A motion was made and seconded to go ahead and immediately provide $2000 to the park for the purchase of computer hardware and software to be specifically used to help digitally archive Morrow Mt. State Park’s rich history. The motion also included the provision that if any funds were left over from the $2,000 that they would be applied by the park towards Old Fashion Day expenses. The motion was unanimously approved.

There was a brief discussion about the need to have one or two additional community presentations in 2014. Jeff Michael’s history presentation in Oct. 2013 was widely praised and packed the lodge. Several suggestions were made about programs including the suggestion about a program on the geology of the Uwharrie Mountains and Morrow Mt. State Park. It was agreed that a program on the ancient American Indian archaeology and history of the park by Dr. Randolph Daniel be consider high on the search list – hopefully for the spring. A program about Morrow Mt. by Ranger Ron Anundson was also suggested for the fall.

Vanessa stated that we needed to set dates for our upcoming FMMSP meetings for 2014. There was agreement to set the following dates (those dates have been confirmed with park staff and space at the park is reserved). Approved dates are: 1. Spring Membership and Board Meeting, May 4, 2014 at 3:00 pm in the park lodge. 2. Summer Board Meeting, August 24, 2014 at 3:00 pm at the conference room in the park office. 3. Fall Membership and Board Meeting (including elections), Nov. 16, 2014 at 3:00 pm in the park lodge. It was discussed that food, music, a short program, or some activity be part of all meetings going forward to help attract members.

It was discussed and agreed that a thank you note for the assistance provided by the state during the major microburst storm that damaged over 100,000 trees should be written to Sec. of NCDENR, John Skvarla at NCDENR, 1601 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699 and to NC State Parks Chief of Operations, Mike Lambert at 1615 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N.C. 27699.

It was discussed that our committees should be re-activated for 2014, especially the Trails & Hiking Comm. that got shut down last year due to the closing of the park for many months. The Trails & Hiking Committee has over 31 members who have asked for more regular hikes. Jim Barfield agreed to try and help organize six hikes in 2014. A few of the hikes may include a Ranger like Ron to provide some park history along the way.

It was also discussed that the Promotions and Marketing Committee will soon have to order more brochures and mailers. They also plan to work with Ron to create the Kron note cards, which we plan to sell. The Promotion and Marketing Comm. with the help of some other directors agreed to develop a letter for area businesses to ask for significant gifts. It was mentioned that the best foot in the door is generally to have a member of FMMSP, who works for a specific business, make the initial contact about a gift.

It was also discussed that we need to sink our teeth into a specific park improvement project in 2014. There was a lot of interest expressed in working with knowledgeable stone masons and others to repair the front entrance’s fallen down stone wall and wood rails. We realize this will require paid skilled labor but volunteers can also help with this project. Vanessa agreed to get some knowledgeable people involved soon. Of course the park’s staff will have to be fully involved and supportive of this project.

The Treasurer, Tevis Smith gave a report. The 2013 end of year audit by the Audit Committee held at MMSP went well. The books are sound. Tevis reported that membership renewals were progressing well and that he had received recently over $1,450 in membership renewals and donations. As of the date of the board meeting there was $2123.53 in our Bank of Stanly account and $5679.34 in our FSP Raleigh account totaling $7802.87. (Note that approval was given above to withdraw fairly quickly $2,000 from our FSP Raleigh account using the assistance of FSP to get that $2,000 to the park office.)

Sec. Tanya Davis made available a copy of an updated membership renewal letter for review and comments at the board meeting. Several copies were passed out and Tanya Davis can make an email version available to any board member for their revision suggestions and improvements before the next group mailing. It was agreed that the Executive Committee and any other interested directors will meet at the Badin Treehouse on March 4th at 3:00 pm to mail out the updated membership renewal letters.

The board meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

John D. Young, Vice Chair (As Secretary Pro Tem in absence of Secretary, Tanya Davis)

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