

January 9th 2012 Friends of Harmonie State Park (FHSP) Minutes

The January meeting was held in Evansville at the Red Bank Library where 18 people were present.

Minutes for November meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer's report for November was read and approved. Ending balance was \$2502.33. \$500. was received from the State of Indiana for matching funds to get the Friend's Group established.

A brief background discussion was held to get new attendees up to speed about "why" the friends group started and our goals. There was also discussion about the opportunity to become a "Founding Member" by a total donation of \$100 by the deadline of August 1, 2012. All founding members will have their name on a plaque which will be displayed in the Nature Center. Corporations and individuals donating \$500. and above will be at the top of the plaque.

Eddie has completed the Form 1023 and will mail to IRS along with \$400. so FHSP can attain non-profit status.

Denny Hargett gave a short presentation on bluebird house making and brought the first bluebird house to the meeting. Denny would like to make around twenty five bluebird houses. He has cypress lumber and would welcome anyone who would like to help. He will be building the houses on January 24th if you would like to help. These houses need to be installed around the park by mid March. E-mail Denny at dhargett67@insightbb.com or 838-9463 if you would like to help build the houses or help check the houses once they are inhabited by bluebirds. This would be a good way to help FHSP and also get your exercise!

Jim Gray, New Harmonie Park Manager, brought several pictures of the slabs that were taken from the oldest black oak tree in Indiana that fell in the park several months ago. Eric McCloud, professor from USI, gave the group several tips on preserving the oak slabs. The first idea would be to strap steel bands around the slabs to preserve the slab from further cracking. Second idea is to paint one side with a water proofing material to slow down the drying or soak them in Ethanol or Polyethylene Glycol (anti freeze). Jim said he would strap the slabs with ratcheting straps. Jim will also call Cotter Lumber Co. to find out if they would kiln dry the slab at their facility. Philip Stoltz would like to build a shelter at the Nature Center for displaying the finished slab. This would be a Boy Scout Eagle project for Philip.

Jim Gray brought a drawing of a proposed stage at the Amphitheater. The stage would be approximately 16 X 20 with a 4 X 10 on the back side for the drummer. There will also be a ramp to accommodate the handicapped and getting equipment on stage. Denny Hargett made a suggestion to spend up to \$1800.00 on the project. Linda Kremer seconded the motion. The proposal will be voted on the next meeting. Valorie Dassel volunteered to apply for grants for this project.

Jim also brought along a proposal from Shephard Services Inc for a Heating/Air Handler for the Nature Center. There are two proposals. The first one is a 15 seer heat pump unit for \$8372. and the second proposal is for a 13 seer heat pump unit for \$7097. Both projects include a 15kw electric heat and a programmable thermostat. The electrical work estimate is \$1475. Rhonda Nurrenbern will look into a used unit she believes she can get which will make the project less costly. The group talked about sponsoring a concession stand for the Outdoor Skills Day which includes the mountain bike rally on July 7 & 8 (this is a tentative fundraiser). Valorie Dassel volunteered to head this project and Mel and Linda Kremer will assist.

FHSP is still looking for a VP or Secretary – If one prefers not to be VP (this position does NOT require you to be President in the future) Fred Hirsch will become VP which opens up Secretary position. We are currently meeting monthly but will have quarterly meetings in the future when group fully established.

THE NEXT FHSP MEETING WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2012 AT 6:00 PM AT

ALEXANDRIAN LIBRARY (ROOM -A) IN MT VERNON , IN. PLEASE PLAN ON ATTENDING!