

## October 26<sup>th</sup> 2011 Friends of Harmonie State Park (FHSP) Minutes

11 people were present.

Minutes for September meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer's report for October was read and approved. Ending balance was \$2352.33.

FHSP has completed the first step towards becoming a "legal entity" / "non-profit" organization. We have filed our Articles of Incorporation for a Nonprofit Corporation and are officially a Nonprofit in the state of Indiana. This cost \$25 and was done by attorney Craig Goedde. The next step is to file for the Federal ID #. This is free. After that, we need to file for our Federal Nonprofit status. This is what costs up to \$850. Eddie is either doing this or working with Craig.

Eddie has filed the request for matching funds from the state. This will need to be paid back.

Eddie talked about insurance for the group and how expensive it will be. Fred & Marilyn will ask about insurance and what other groups are doing when they attend the Brown County Friends annual meeting. As a group we would need to decide how much or how little insurance we want.

Shannon Hoehn has graciously agreed to complete the FHSP Web site. She is not a web design person so if anyone has skills there – or knows someone that does, she might appreciate the support. Ann Martin has also worked on Web sites and may be asked to help Shannon if necessary. Eddie will contact Ann.

A brief background discussion (which should have been at the beginning of the meeting) was held to get the entire group up to speed about "why" the friends group started and what our goals were.

A suggestion to have a blue bird trail along the nature trails was suggested. Jerry Hauke would be a good source of ideas on this subject. Also, Birds Unlimited in Evansville may also be a good source to get us started. Patoka Lake has a blue bird trail and may be able to assist us when setting this up.

Eddie asked everyone to take an enrollment form and give it to anyone interested.

More Public Relations are necessary to get the Friends Group more known. Melissa Williams (Visitor services coordinator for Historic New Harmony) will post any flier in New Harmony Atheneum the Friends group would like to have advertised. Melissa has also very generously offered to have FHSP meeting at the Atheneum or the Opera House when she is available. The officers will make a tri-fold of what FHSP is about to be available at the front gate. We will look at other Friends groups to get ideas.

A plaque to honor Corporations and Founders will be displayed in the Nature Center. The ending time for anyone to become a Founder will be August 1st, 2012. Corporations giving more than \$500.00 will be added to the top of the plaque as monies are obtained.

FHSP needs a "project" that can be discussed when going to prospective donors (individuals, corporations and foundations) asking for monies and grants. (A screened-in shelter house attached to the Nature Center was one suggestion.) A State Park representative will be asked to attend the next

meeting so their input will be involved in future projects.

USI, Cargill Grain and Posey Co. Community Foundation were suggested as possible sources for grants. The group talked about grant writing and the names of Randy Pease and Linda Warrum were suggested as someone who could assist us when writing grants. If anyone is interested in helping the group write grants, please let Fred know. (985-3572)

Marilyn has requested a booth along main street for the 2012 Kunstfest. We will not know where the booth will be until we get the booth assignment next year. Several fund raisers were suggested for next year. Corn Hole tournament, the Luau @ Harmonie Pool, BBQ sales, a Chili cook-off on Arbor Day at New Harmony and a booth at the River Fest in Mt. Vernon were suggested. Members will be needed to assist with these fund raisers if they are to become reality.

Next meeting will be on Tuesday, November 30th @ 6:00pm in the New Harmony Atheneum. Look for the meeting in the Evansville Courier.

The officers thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and for their valuable input.

Ed Knapp - President

JC Egli - Vice President

Marilyn Hirsch – Treasurer

Fred Hirsch - Secretary