

## **Friends of Northwest Park Meeting Minutes      2-12-08**

**Attendees:** Florence Barlow, Heidi Lindberg, Jay Melley, Terry Langevin, Kathryn Grimshaw, Lis Bress, Lauren Grimshaw, Randy Lee, Chris Alford, Chuck Drake, Ann Allen, Al Boehm, Dawn Morgan

**Regrets:** Carol MacMullen, Vivian Cicero, Kate Ferris-Morrell, Nancy Taylor, Linda Alexander, Eric Davison

**Absent:** Mickey Mattei, Bill Schoner, Tim Curtis, Dick Dolliver, Kate Lange, Lesley Morgan Thompson, Lon Pelton, Bill Schoner, Debby Silliman

Meeting began at 7:07 on this Lincoln's Birthday.

**Presidents Report:** The Budget was presented at Town Hall. Since the only notice was the one the Secretary put out on the day of the meeting, no one from the Friends showed up. We need to support a full time Educator position in this years budget, effective July 1<sup>st</sup> 2008. We probably need to see the budget as it pertains to Northwest Park.

Long Term, we should look at the potential of the Park, along with the Staff, tentatively scheduled for the May meeting. We would like to have Eric Davison rescheduled as soon as possible. Kathryn to follow up.

**Treasurers Report:** Data attached for July 06-June 07 & July 07 to present. The data keeps improving. We have approximately \$100,000 in assets. The biggest difference from last year to this year is the reduction of funds by about \$4,000 from the Country Fair. Monies need to be segregated out for maple syrup sales. Pay Pal is working fine according to Chuck and Randy. The accounting review is expected to be completed within the next few months.

**Staff Reports:** Eric Davison cancelled with an invitation to come again as soon as possible. Kathryn reported for Ford who is now working from his home and can be reached via e-mail [Parker@townofwindsorct.com](mailto:Parker@townofwindsorct.com) . We wish him well.

The FY09 Budget includes a full time educator position and a proposal for a 12 passenger van which was not approved but still on the table. Three natural excursions are being planned by Jen Filer.

Ford will be starting three Advisory Committees and would like Friends on each Committee:

Organic Gardening Advisory Committee

Pond(see Eric's report)

Green Team (reduce costs in the nature center)

We have volunteers already: Heidi in the Green Team; Florence in the Organic Gardening and Chris in the Pond Committee. If you are interested, please contact Ford directly at [Parker@townofwindsorct.com](mailto:Parker@townofwindsorct.com).

*Staff Report Con'd:* The Cabin Fever Festival was a success with snow arriving at 12 noon. It was a beautiful day with 79 people attending for a \$400 profit. Hamburgers were sold out. Thank-you for the many volunteers who helped out. The Journal Inquirer covered the ice carving with a picture on the front page and the owl event. We had \$1900 in sponsorships from 500 sponsorship letters we sent out. See attached for a list of sponsors.

Eric and Ford are working towards a Spring Burn for the grasshopper field.

Steve Simon gave us Maple Sugar House note cards, which will be for sale in the Gift Shop.Thank-you Steve.

**Newsletter: Deadline March 1, 2008.**

**Membership Committee:** Congratulations to Lauren Grimshaw for agreeing to head the Membership Committee. Chuck has agreed to help along with committee members, Dawn Morgan, Heidi Lindberg, and Kate Lang. The postcard membership reply idea was passed around. Randy to confirm with the Accountants the response requirements of a 501C3 in regard to tax deductible donations.

**Lecture Series:** Adult Education, new Friends members, and promotion of the Park are all goals for the Series. The purpose and details need to be worked out. The potential is not limited. Lisa Bress agreed to look into this with Mary Hogan and Mike Novak.

**Future Focus:** Jay handed out an outline for possible future discussions to answer what we are doing and where we are going. The annual meeting is not that far away and this is a way to get us in order. Lisa commented on whether part of our mission could include Nature Camp scholarships. Mike would like to address the \$66,000 monies in our assets.

All Trustees are asked to comment on any of the four topics attached to the minutes or add any of your own. Respond to Jay at [wjmelley@wjmelley.com](mailto:wjmelley@wjmelley.com) prior to the next meeting for addition to the agenda.

**Finance Committee:** Due to the confusion on how the Friends can support the Budget requests for Northwest Park, it was agreed that the Finance Committee will work with Ford and the Town to plan the Friends involvement in the annual NWP Budget process.

Adjournment 8:40pm.

Respectfully submitted by T. Langevin, Secretary