

MILL CREEK METROPARKS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 10, 2017

PRESENT: James Bolchalk, Ed Howley, Anne Liller, Rick Shale, and staff liaison Jaime Yohman. Excused Frank Krygowski.

The meeting began at 10:00 am in Classroom A of the MetroParks Farm. Shale noted that we had a quorum. A brief discussion followed concerning the fact that we are minus two members-- we have had no response from one selected member and another selected member declined to be on the committee.

After review of the previous meeting minutes, Shale made a motion to accept the minutes, and the motion was passed unanimously. We clarified how the committee minutes move through the process: the secretary sends a draft to the chair, who reviews and returns the draft. The secretary then distributes the revised minutes to the committee. Once these minutes are approved at the following meeting, the secretary will email them to Mandy Walker, who publishes them on the MetroParks website as a public record.

We then reviewed our present goals—need for volunteer training, volunteer appreciation, touring park sites as a group. Shale will email the committee members a list of MetroPark sites that are 60 years old or older.

The committee held a brief discussion on the minimum age for park volunteers. This bears further discussion. One minimum age does not seem to fit all volunteers. Thirteen may be appropriate for some volunteer positions but too young for others. Jaime Yohman, as per the board, clarified that the newly formed committees should be called standing committees, not advisory committees.

Shale initiated a conversation concerning the Buckeye Horse Park, noting that the Horse Park rents from the MetroParks and is operated by the Buckeye Horse Park Board. Discussion then revolved around a recommendation that the Horse Park should be responsible for their own volunteers and their own publicity.

A brief discussion followed on the procedure of how we report to the Board. Shale will check with Tom Shipka concerning the process for making our recommendations. Shale commented that the Nature Preserves need more publicity and should be individually mentioned on the web site.

Discussion turned toward volunteers, and the need for a written statement from the park that explains liability coverage. Yohman mentioned that there is no volunteer orientation at this time. Her plan is to give new volunteers a whole packet of park information, including liability forms that specifically deal with accidents and accidental injury. These may cover accidents or injury to the volunteer, but a written document is needed to clarify how a volunteer is protected from liability when persons under the control or responsibility of a volunteer are injured. For example, passengers on a trolley ride or kayak trip or hikers on a park-sponsored hike. These forms would require the volunteer's signature.

Background checks are now to be rerun annually. Yohman also noted that the online volunteer opportunity list is being updated and is near completion.

Agenda items for our next meeting include: craft a recommendation for volunteer orientation, training and insurance issues; look over volunteer info found on the website; review monthly programs and events schedule; and look at other park websites.

Meeting adjourned at 12:10 pm. Next meeting is scheduled for March 24, 2017; 10am in Classroom A

Anne Liller, Secretary