

## Nature Education Standing Committee Minutes 4/17/18

PRESENT: Josh Boyle, Nancy Brundage, Laurel Gay, Kat Paull, Stacey Pavlik,  
Lauren Schroeder, Nick Visingardi, Advisor Carol Vigorito

### The minutes

The meeting was opened by Chairman Boyle at 6:30 PM 4/17/18. The minutes from the 9/13/17 we're approved 7-0. The minutes from the 3/18/18 were approved as amended 7-0.

### Old Business

Mr. Boyle brought up the subject of grants. All grant requests go through Chris Lipton, Development Director. Currently the areas for fund raising through the Capital Improvements are Ford Nature Center (top priority), Lanterman' Mill and the Gardens. A current emphasis is to set up endowments After a certain amount is raised, additional funding from interest can be used for projects. We need to brainstorm at the next few meetings to look for ideas that could be presented to the Board. Mrs. Vigorito suggested we might want to review the goals that were set up at the 2/8/17 meeting.

Information that had previous been submitted to the previous Chair from Mrs. Hubbard, Mrs. Gay and Dr. Schroeder on ideas has been received..'

### New Business

Mrs. Paull brought up the subject of the Naturalists Series being held by the Park. She said it would be nice if there was a way to receive reactions to the programs.

Mrs. Vigorito said there are cards in the racks in the Park with the schedule of programs. Speakers are being brought in. She said they are making changes to public programming.

Mrs. Paull also asked why there was not more educational signage in the Park. Mrs. Vigorito said some like it, some don't. Mrs. Paull said maybe there could be poster contests for the schools with a subject like "Don't feed the wildlife". Mrs. Paull also commented that all the Youngstown Schools have email and could be notified about programs.

Mrs. Vigorito advised that the school program evaluation has been completed. They are looking for programs for Middle and High Schools students. A plan they are considering is to bring all Youngstown Schools 4th grades to the Park in the Spring and bring them back in the Fall. Mrs. Paull feels it would be better to bring in the Fall and again in the Spring. 5th grade standards are different. She also believes there should be more cultural programs. The Park is trying to gear topics to the Park using park resources as a base.

A question was asked regarding using technology. Mr. Boyle said Turning Point is a way to measure outcome of a program. Mrs. Vigorito said at Ford they were trying to get away from screens.

Dr. Schroeder presented a proposal to the committee on the management of small public areas. It is attached to the minutes as an amendment.

### Next meeting

Dates suggested were 5/23 or 5/24/18 depending on the availability of the room.  
The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Nancy Brundage