

Nature Education Standing Committee Minutes 7/30/18

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

The meeting was opened by Chairman Boyle at 6:30 PM on 7/30/18. We discussed the minutes of the last meeting (5/24/18). Mrs. Brundage proposed an amendment; she informed, not suggested "Gardening for pollinators". We clarified that SMART stands for Specific, measureable, achievable, relevant, and timely. Mr. Visingardi motioned and Mrs. Paull seconded the motion to amend and approve the minutes for 5/24/18.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Schroeder has not contacted anyone yet regarding the symposium. Those he spoke with at East Gate did seem very interested and he did some electronic searches but does not want to make any motions at this time. There are some state and national organizations that Mr. Schroeder could investigate. Mrs. Paull is still unsure whether the symposium really suits our mission. Mr. Schroeder does agree with Mrs. Paull's point but also sees the park taking on a leadership role to provide education to the community in how we can better improve the environment around us. It could possibly be good publicity for the park regarding the quality of environment and how we as humans and a community deal with it. Mrs. Brundage read the goals and charges of the park as a reminder to us. Mr. Boyle suggests that we see where this goes and see if it fits the mission once we get more information. We as a committee decided to table this discussion for later date when we get more information.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Boyle passed out a shortened guide to Robert's Rule to discuss meeting format for us to consider. Mr. Schroeder said there is merit in structure and favors it. Mrs. Paull agrees that having structure makes what the committee discusses and decides more clear to the public. Mrs. Vigorito said it makes it more clear to the board as well. Mr. Boyle briefly went over the ten basic rules and we as a committee agreed to read it over and vote on the meeting structure at the next meeting.

Next order of business were the updated meeting policies. Mr. Boyle pointed out on the second page, letter N as the change. Mrs. Vigorito summarized the change in H, and said that committees still have to report to board once a year. The change in N is that committees need to have a written report submitted to the Board at the December meeting. Each year, the board wants a written proposal with up to 3 goals that align to Boards mission statement and committees goals.

Next, we discussed setting goals. Mr. Boyle opened the discussion for suggested specific goals that are SMART (Specific, measureable, achievable, relevant, and timely). Mrs. Paull suggested the general programs should be more specific and interesting programs for higher grades to bring those age groups into the park. We have programs for the younger students but not for the teenager and older groups. Mrs. Vigorito said that this is an action for our committee, so a goal needs to state how the committee will help. Mrs. Paull suggested that we look at other parks and see what kind of programs they offer and how success they are to determine if that is something we would be willing to offer at MCMP. Mr. Visingardi mentioned that he belongs to two sportsman clubs that have family days, which provide the resources for free to fish, kayaks, practice archery and other events. The programs feed them and provide gifts/prizes (t-shirt, water bottle). These programs work off donations that are funded by ODNR (\$5,000-\$6,000). Mrs. Vigorito explained that Mr. Visingardi's description was a plan, and we are trying to set goals for next year. So, we need to decide what the committee is going to do. An example of a goal would be to find ways to increase people/families/demographics all age groups in the park.

Mrs. Paull suggested that we be attentive to how different groups could attend programs (no strollers, handicapped can't hike) when making our goals. Mrs. Vigorito agreed that this is a possible separate goal:

Investigate how the park is accommodating people with various physical challenges/mobility, age groups and how can the park improve. Mr. Visingardi said to look at other parks and copy their programs if they are/were successful. Mr. Boyle charged us to find and talk to people, and return to the next meeting with two possible programs that could guide our next meeting so we can better articulate our goal(s).

Next we discussed partnerships. Rick Shale sent all standing committee chairs an email and mentioned the potential for partnerships with other committees, University students, or companies that could help us reach our goals/mission with information, etc. (refer to email) Mrs. Vigorito mentioned that MCMP brought on new naturalist educator, Solom Fareham (spelling), who is experienced in high school and college groups, and suggested a possible partnership with her and the Nature Education Committee.

Mr. Boyle asked the committee to collect previous relevant documents to compile into a written report for the Board and mentioned he would touch base with Jeff Harvey as well.

Next, we began open dialogue with Mrs. Vigorito following up a prior request. Mandy can come to our next meeting to provide us an update on programs and their alignment to ODE standards for Science education. Mrs. Paull is interested in this to discuss and make sure the programs meet the grade level specific standards required by ODE.

Mrs. Brundage discussed upcoming programs for next year.

Aaron then discussed how we operate as a committee, following an agenda, reporting and minutes and all the requirements. He mentioned there were no minutes submitted for the last two meetings (April and May) and said they need to be uploaded soon. Mrs. Vigorito said we just approved the May meeting minutes tonight, Mandy has the April meeting minutes, but may not have formatted them properly.

Aaron also likes Robert's rule for following a meeting format and he talked at length with committees about keeping it simple to maximize their time at meetings.

Aaron mentioned to the committee to remember the charge of the committee and to make sure the content is aligned. Data driven change is important. If our goal is getting people in the park, then we need to prove there is an underserved age group (collect data), then review that data to make a suggestion.

Aaron also said that exploring other programming is a good thing and said that the Board looks for something for everyone at all times of the year for all ages and abilities.

Mrs. Paull asked if there were plans to build a visitor's center. Aaron stated that just renovations to Ford Nature Center to make it like the central hub of the park was all that was planned.

Proposed next meeting dates: 1st choice : August 22nd , 2nd choice: August 23rd, 3rd choice: August 28th (location may change)

Mr. Boyle adjourned the meeting at 7:47 PM. Nancy 2nd. All in favor.

Secretary Stacey Sahli