

Nature Education Standing Committee Minutes May, 16th, 2019

Present: Nancy Brundage, Nicholas Visingardi, Kat Paull, Mandy Smith, Josh Boyle

Old business: All members present had read the minutes and no revisions were made. Nancy Brundage made a motion to accept the minutes as written, second by Kat Paull. All say aye. Josh Boyle assumed position of secretary.

New business:

Nancy Brundage inquired to Mandy about a few topics:

-What is the percentage of in county versus out of county schools that attend educational programs (13%)

-What is the attendance on the nature education programs (September 2018 to most current). Mandy said she would bring them to our next meeting

Nick Visingardi brought up that there was a good exchange of information and conversations around school programming and programs that are high quality, in demand and appropriate that are well developed and cover multiple subjects/skills.

Kat Paull noted all the outreach to schools and groups for that park and other organizations that is in demand and works well. Kat asked about FNC plan and space vision for programming and education. Mandy mentioned that wouldn't be a problem, possibly have a meeting specifically for FNC info session.

Nancy Brundage brought up future scheduling of our committee meetings and trying to be consistent with same day each month. We voted to schedule a meeting for July 18th 9am at FNC and August 15th 6pm location TBD on availability

Nancy Brudnage asked about how to communicate when committee members are unable to attend meeting and Mandy offered up taking on that responsibility and was followed by a short group discussions about the book festival and other events at the gardens.

Nancy and Mandy brought up discussions about programming for people with disabilities. Holding an event for people of disabilities that looks to seek their feedback on what more the park could offer that would interest them. Mandy mentioned the successful programs for that demographic at the gardens and the farm. Nancy talked about programs with a very short outing accompanied with activities and presentations, she made a point that these types of activities and programs should be developed and specifically marketed to people with disabilities. Josh Boyle talked about bringing in examples of programs that work for this demographic elsewhere in our community or beyond.

Josh Boyle talked about how he feels the MetroParks is making education a priority recently and was impressed with the all the fundraising the MetroParks has done for the Ford Nature Center.

Lastly, Aaron Young said he was here to listen and answer any question. Nancy talked about the Horticulture Committees resignations over the commissioners changing of the

committee structure and responsibilities. There followed a brief discussion where Mr. Young talked about the how different each committees' group dynamics are and how each has a different relationship with their liaison. He mentioned some committees' feel they do not need to meet monthly because they believe the MetroParks are meeting the needs of the community. Kat Paull asked about promoting committee openings at events or specifically target groups where there are people with the expertise.

Nick Visingardi moves to adjourn and Kat seconds. All present in favor to adjourn at 7:45pm.