

Minutes for 1000 Islands Environmental Center Committee Meeting Held on Thursday, September 20, 2018

Members Present: Driessen, Gertz, Hietpas, Kalupa, McGinnis, McSorley, VanBerkel

Absent/Excused: Pautz, McGregor

Also Present: Debbie Nowak

The meeting was called to order by Chairman McSorley at 6:31 p.m. Quorum is present. Kalupa made a motion to approve the minutes of the August meeting. Second by Gertz. Motion carried.

Financial Report

McSorley presented the July and August financial reports. VanBerkel moved to accept the accept the July and August financial report with the exception of the future amendment of telephone charges. Second by Gertz. Motion carried.

Correspondence

Nothing to report

Report from the Friends of 1000 Islands

Hietpas reported that the Friends are working on budget items for 2019, including an increase to \$8,000 for the 1000 Islands operating budget. Hietpas also reported that the soda machine has been removed from the entryway.

Naturalist Report

After a review of the written Naturalist Report, Hietpas asked about the nature of the bee hives proposed to be added to the property as he knows someone who may be interested in helping. Nowak informed committee that the two individuals who have requested permission to put hives on the property will be responsible for all of the upkeep of hives.

VanBerkel questioned on what evidence was noted regarding the success of the newly installed rodent barrier. Nowak explained that there has been evidence of animals trying to dig under the foundation at the back of the building, but the animals encountered the hardware cloth as well as the crushed rock and gave up the effort.

Kalupa inquired about the native bee house/hotel at the end of the parking lot. He noted that there seemed to be a section missing and asked if a barrier needed to be added to prevent people from pulling out the materials. Nowak will inquire with the Appleton Pollinator Project on their recommendations.

Admin/Finance Committee

VanBerkel reported that there was a draft of a smoking, vaping and all other tobacco use policy included in the meeting packets. Gertz moved to adopt the revised policy, Second by Driessen. Motion carried.

Nowak explained the needs for new technology items to support the new staff and the new fiber optic cable. The cost for a portion of the equipment totals \$3,588.41 and requested approval to get the project started. Gertz moved to approve the expenditure of \$3,588.41 for the purchase of new laptops, phones, wireless access point and switch. Second by Driessen. Motion carried.

Education Committee

McSorley reported that attendance at educational programming has been very good. Nowak gave the committee an update on the progress of Assistant Naturalist, Stephanie Feuerstein. She is settling into the position well and bringing many new ideas.

Building & Grounds Committee

McGinnis summarized the minutes of the Building & Grounds sub-committee meeting on August 28 and the Building & Grounds tour which was held just before the Committee meeting.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Good of the Center

Nowak gave an update on the progress of the historical book being written by Carol VanBoxtel. The committee was survey on opinions as to what the book should be titled. It was agreed to title the book "1000 Islands Environmental Center Kaukauna's Diamond in the Rough" but ultimately give VanBoxtel the ability to choose what she feels will work best.

Driessen brought up a discussion about the nature center being closed on Sundays. There was discussion of why volunteers are being utilized on Saturdays when staff is present, but not on Sundays. Nowak informed the committee that volunteers are generally scheduled for 2 Saturdays per month, to allow the Assistant Naturalist concentrate on program when working and allow the Site Manager to concentrate on building projects while working. Our current number of people willing to help out in the front office is suitable for this level of scheduling, but adding Sunday's into the schedule will result in inconsistent hours when volunteers are unavailable.

There being no further business, Driessen moved for adjournment. Hietpas second. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:12 pm.