

Friends of the Well - Minutes August 13, 2009

The meeting was called to order by Bob Burke. Attending the meeting:

Bob Burke - Treasurer FOTW

Jeanette Rodda - Vice President FOTW

Kayo Parsons-Korn - BCRC Representative FOTW

Kathy Davis - Superintendent, Montezuma Castle & Tuzigoot NMs

Rex Vanderford - Montezuma Well Managing Ranger

Steve Sprinz - Lake Montezuma resident

Sandy (no last name) Cornville resident

Bob Burke led the meeting. Bob announced that Fred Shute had quit the group and we needed to regroup, rethink our mission, goals, etc. and that was the purpose of this meeting.

Bob mentioned that he had thrown out the idea via email of getting rid of paid membership, incorporation, etc. and just work at taking on projects that the Park needed done in an informal way. But Kayo pointed out sometimes the group needed some cash for a project. Like all the fencing needed for the Hopi Garden. A discussion ensued about the benefits of incorporation, especially as a 501(c)3 as it would give the group the ability to pursue grants, as well as take tax deductible donations. But paid membership was difficult to manage and again, without the non-profit status it was difficult to get people to join. Kayo and Kathy both thought the model that Stewards of Public Lands used was a good one for this group. The Stewards do not have paid membership, but they do have a Board and 501(c)3 status. They have successfully written and received grants for pursuing their Forest Service clean-up efforts. They take names and emails at each clean-up and use this list to announce the clean-up dates and times. They maintain a bank account to manage the grant money and donations they take in.

It was agreed that this model would work well for our group too. To pursue this goal we would need to:

- Reorganize the Board as we no longer have a President. Although Jeanette is Vice President she cannot take on the Presidency at this time due to personal commitments. Kayo will volunteer to take on the role of the Presidency until the December Annual meeting. Assume other Board Members will continue in their roles until the December Meeting. The Secretary Maggie Holt was not present so we have to see if she will continue as our secretary.
- Find a lawyer or someone like a CPA who was familiar with setting up a 501(c)3. See what it would take to move from incorporation to non-profit incorporation status. Kayo suggested that Ray who teaches law at NAU might know someone? Steve Sprinz suggested we talk to Kala Pearson as she had recently set up a non-profit. Since we have very little funds at this time we will need to find someone who could work pro-bono. Network within the group.
- The bylaws would have to be amended to reflect that members do not pay dues. The board will have to meet to come up with new language for the amendment. This is the procedure we will have to follow (from existing bylaws):

Article VI. Amendment of Bylaws

Two months' notice of intention to amend the bylaws shall be sent to all members via USPS or email to the address in the records for each member.

The notice of intention to amend the bylaws shall cite the specific Article(s) to be amended, the original wording, and the proposed new wording.

The notice of intention to amend the bylaws shall be read at the next regular meeting following the mailing of the notice.

The amendment shall be voted on at the next regular meeting following the reading of the notice and shall be decided by a two-thirds vote of officers and members present.

Then we discussed what was our Mission statement now and did we want to change our focus and Mission Statement? It was felt the current Mission Statement may have been appropriate when the group first formed to oppose a shopping center development near the Well, but now it seemed too narrowly focused. (Current statement follows)

"Our mission is to protect our National Monument from rampant encroachment of development in the vicinity of the well while also preserving the threatened aquifer sourcing this magnificent and unique habitat belonging to us all."

There was a discussion of how wide a net we wanted to throw, what were our main goals, etc. These would influence the statement. We want to do projects that would support the park, further education about the Park and its environs, and also continue to do projects in Beaver Creek like the Adopt the Road litter pick-ups. It was agreed that there were significant resources that are related to the Park but that are not within the Park boundaries such as petroglyphs and ruins in such places as the V-V Ranch, Red Tank Draw, and Wet Beaver and West Clear Creek drainages that also needed protection. There was also discussion about how the Park has to walk a fine line in the political arena, and an advocacy group can take positions that the Park can't take for itself.

So it felt that a new Mission Statement needed to encompass a few things:

- Advocacy group for the Park and environs
- Help with Park projects
- Community service in Beaver Creek
- Educational role

It was decided that Kayo should take a shot at drafting a Mission Statement as it is easier to start with something the group could comment on.

Then the discussion turned to some short term goals we could accomplish in the next 90 days. Some ideas discussed included:

Another Road Cleanup. Since it has been maybe April or May since we did our last clean-up it really was necessary. We discussed what was needed to organize this. Bob suggested Aug. 29th but everyone felt we needed to pick a date further out so we could get organized. Sept. 26th was chosen as it will be cooler then and October was packed with events in BC.

We discussed borrowing pick-up sticks and reflective vests from Kiwanis again. But apparently we had lost or broken some of their equipment so they may not want to lend us equipment again. There was a discussion of whether we could take the funds left in the bank account and buy some tools. Or, could we get a store like Ace Hardware to donate them? This brought up how having 501(c)3 status would help. When you needed something donated, people were more apt to give if there was a tax incentive. It was agreed that Bob would contact Tammy DeWitt to see who we should work with at the County to get the bags and arrange for the pickup.

Moonlight Walk at the Park. Have another moonlight walk like last year. September seemed too soon to organize this, so we checked when the Full Moon would occur in October. It turns out that the Full Moon is October 4th. Then we discussed the logistics:

- Rex felt that perhaps we should limit the advertising on this as the huge turn-out last year posed a safety problem with double parking along the roads and pedestrians mixed together. Could we limit this to just Beaver Creek? Kayo said the Bugle article was probably why so many people turned out last year as it has a large circulation. Just advertise at the September meetings of the various Beaver Creek groups and to the email list we have now for Friends of the Well. Could we also direct traffic at the park entrance so that people who were able to walk the distance would be directed to park down at the picnic grounds? Apparently that parking hadn't been used last year. Then elderly people could park up closer.
- Could we get a flute player again? Kathy will look into getting David Wolfrobe.
- Timing. What time was moonrise. Kayo to get time. We should have people start to come about 45 minutes to an hour before then.
- Volunteers to help guide people along the paths. We would send out a request to the FOTW list.
- Help with set up. Rex felt he had that covered, but would ask if he needed help. He already had all the lanterns from last year.

Then we talked about what sort of projects in the future would the Park need help with. Rex said they always needed help clearing around and in the ditches. Also there was a lot of trash that is thrown off the road that lands up down by the picnic ground parking area. Jeanette thought we should talk to Rimrock High School as their students have to do community service to graduate. Kayo had mentioned that the Rimrock High School students had come down earlier this year to help water the Hopi Garden and had worked very hard. We will look into utilizing Rimrock High School as a resource for volunteers.

Also, Kathy discussed the future plans for the demonstration gardens for which they had received a grant. There would be a pollinator garden, a ancient Singuan crop garden and a pioneer garden. These would be placed down in the open field beyond the picnic ground. They were also contemplating creating paths around the garden and down along the open woods along the creek to give visitors more

things to do and more paths to stroll. So there would be lots of opportunities for volunteering there and also a need for additional grants for items that weren't covered in the current grant. This is where FOTW could help.

Kayo had mentioned that Fred and Karin Ward had talked about how to involve the elementary school at the Well. Kathy said they had provided the school with teacher guides and a CD that had curriculum geared towards the AIM tests. Were they doing anything with those? Kayo thought perhaps they were looking for volunteers for field trips to the Well? She would follow up with Karin and see what had been discussed to date with Fred and were they using any of the material they already had.

Rex suggested to boost membership we might want to do a quarterly field trip. Perhaps Sharon Olsen could give a tour of the small ruin up on the hill in Lake Montezuma. Other hikes, outings of that nature. We all thought that was a great idea. Kayo had mentioned she hoped Fred would be interested in helping us out there.

We decided we wanted to keep doing presentations as people really enjoyed those. But perhaps try to find more presenters in the archeology, geology, and ecology field. Something besides the garden presentations. Although do some of the gardening presentations too because people really enjoyed them.

But Bob pointed out it was difficult with such a small group to always be able to get a good presentation together each month. Maybe go to quarterly meetings? People thought that was too far apart. Maybe stick to monthly meetings but take the summer off. That is what a lot of groups do. That idea needed to be suggested to the group at large. Maybe people would be willing to help find presenters.

These notes are not in a linear order. I rearranged the notes so that like topics fell together.

Kayo Parsons-Korn