

**Minutes of the Mingo Swamp Friends Quarterly Meeting
May 6, 2014**

President Sharon Tuschoff called to order the Quarterly Meeting of Mingo Swamp Friends at 6:13 pm in the meeting room of the Visitors Center.

ATTENDANCE

Ten Friends members and two Mingo Refuge staff were present

Bruce Beck	Susan Spargo
Gary Beacham	John Stanard
Fred Grayson	Sharon Tuschoff
Betty Greenlee	Ben Mense, Refuge Manager
Ray Greenlee	Peter Rea, Visitors Services Park
Virgeal Harp	Ranger
Leroy Romine	

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The minutes of the March 9, 2014 Quarterly Meeting were read by secretary Beck. **Motion** to approve the minutes made by Beacham. Second by Ray Greenlee. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Beacham reported a balance in the checking account of \$9,080.72.

DISCUSSION OF FINANCIAL MATTERS

Unclaimed Photo Contest Awards

A total of \$135 that was awarded to three Photo Contest winners last fall remains unclaimed. Peter Rae will try to question the three recipients when they show up to claim their photos as to whether they received the checks and plan to cash them. Tuschoff will try to phone them to ask the same.

List of Projects that the Friends might Finance

Leroy Romine requested that since the Friends now have over \$9,000 in the checking account, with the prospect of earning more through the newly-opened bookstore that the refuge staff make a list of projects that the Friends might finance in the future. Discussion suggested several potential projects, including (1) improvements to the photo blinds, (2) an observation tower at the end of the boardwalk extension into Rockhouse Marsh, (3) pop-up tents for use on Family Fishing Day and other activities.

Application for a \$2,500 grant for fishing equipment and youth life vests was sent to Paddle Nation by Peter Rae and Gretchen Pendley. The response is pending. The group discussed the pros and cons of the Friends buying and renting canoes and/or kayaks.

Peter and Ben reported on work scheduled for this fall to clear a canoe trail through the Wilderness Area. A brochure with a map will be prepared.

OLD BUSINESS

Book Store Insurance

Tuschoff reported that she checked with two local insurance agencies for costs of insurance for bookstore inventory and liability coverage. The local Shelter Insurance agency quoted annual premiums of \$166.00 for \$10,000 in property (bookstore contents), and \$23.00 for \$300,000 in liability for Friends activities. **Motion** by Beck, second by Beacham to buy the full coverage from Shelter Insurance for \$189.00 per year. Motion passed. Beacham said that he would buy the coverage.

Bookstore Purchases

Peter Rae reported that since the last meeting an additional \$80 was used to purchase a credit card reader compatible with the newly-purchased laptop and QuickBooks software.

STAFF REPORTS

Refuge Manager Ben Mense:

- As of Monday, May 12, public access to the Visitors Center will be through the front door rather than the side door and the public will be greeted at the Information Desk. The opening of the Visitors Center will be announced in the newspapers, on Facebook and on the refuge website.
- Some kind of “open house” event will be planned for the summer, with the Grand Opening during National Refuge Month in October.
- The Bookstore is open for business.
- The displays are installed and functioning.
- The staff are waiting on Brad Watkins to help place the pave stones.
- The road construction contractor says that the Auto Tour Route should be ready to be opened at the end of May. The two bridges are completed and paving on the hills is in progress.
- The Ozark Highlands Auto Tour Route will be open to vehicles from March 1 - November 30. Closed period from December 1 - February 28. We will close the road to non-hunting vehicles on managed hunt weekends also. Monopoly
- Marsh and Gumstump Pool are refuges closed to hunting, but open for fishing.
- Two way traffic is open from Bowhunters Parking Area to the Ditch 2 Pump. The rest of the loop is still one way traffic only.
- The positions of Temporary Park Ranger and YCC Summer Interns are pending until school is out, and should be filled around June 6.

Ranger Peter Rae:

- Family Fishing Day will be Saturday, June 7, from 9 am to noon. Leroy Romine offered to boil hot dogs. Friends were asked for donations to buy hot dogs, sodas and chips to sell to the participants, and for Peter to buy worms and cricket as bait. It is intended to have a drawing to give gifts such as gift cards and fishing equipment to the young participants. Friends have volunteered to ask for gifts to give away.

Motion by Romine, second by Stanard that the Friends pay for the bait. Passed.

Motion by Stanard, second by Beck that the Friends finance the purchase of a quality pop-up tent for up to \$300. The refuge staff is to do the shopping and may use the Friends credit in order to make the purchase. Motion passed.

- Peter considered the Refuge Clean-up Day on April 5th a great success. The Mingo Job Corps volunteers were especially enthusiastic and enjoyed discovering relics along the way.

Swamp Saturday schedule:

- June 7 – Family Fishing Day
- July 12 – Tree Identification

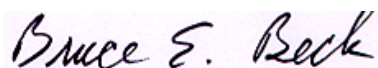
ANNUAL MEETING and ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Annual Meeting of Mingo Swamp Friends will be Tuesday, July 29 at 7:00 pm in the Visitors Center.

Motion by Romine, second by Harp, that the current officers be nominated to retain office in the new year. The officers present agreed to accept the nomination. Beacham is to ask Brad Watkins if he is willing to be nominated. Beck will send notices of the annual meeting and alert the members and others on the list to the upcoming election of officers, inviting new nominations, and reminding all that annual membership fees will be due at the time of the meeting. Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Romine, second by Ray Greenlee. Motion passed. Adjourned at 7:52 pm.



Bruce Beck, Secretary