

**Mingo Swamp Friends Quarterly Meeting
January 9, 2018**

Present: Amanda Mossman, President; Leroy Romine, Vice President; Bruce Beck, Secretary; Sharon Beck, Treasurer; Jessica Reker, Student Conservation Association Intern; Debbie Koenigs, Refuge Ranger; Herman Willfong, Mingo neighbor

Call to Order: President Amanda Mossman called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., in the Mingo NWR Visitor Center.

Minutes of the October 10, 2017 Quarterly Meeting were read by secretary Bruce Beck. Motion by Romine, second by Reker, to approve with corrections. Minutes approved.

Financial report. A summary of the income and expenses of the last quarter of 2017 and summary of 2017 annual income and expenses was given by Treasurer Sharon Beck. The printed report is attached. Motion to approve made by Reker. Second by Bruce Beck. Motion passed.

Committee Reports

Facebook and Website Report by Amanda Mossman.

The GoDaddy Business Website Builder expires 2/24/18. It is set to renew for one year at \$143.88 or for two years at \$287.76. Motion by Bruce, second by Romine to renew for one year at \$143.88. Motion passed.

Bookstore Report by Amanda Mossman.

The attached Inventory Report for December 2016 through January 6, 2018 shows the following:

Total Investment	Retail Value	Net Value
\$4,878.21	\$8,090.85	+\$3,186.71

The **Annual Financial Report** shows the following for the Bookstore:

Income	Expenditures	Net
+\$8,594.97	-\$3,839.59	+\$4,755.38

Photo Contest Report by Bruce Beck.

The **Annual Financial Report** shows the following for the Bookstore:

Income	Expenditures	Net
+\$1,065.00	-\$651.00	+\$414.00

2017				2018						
Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	July
Mingo Visitor Center	Cape Girardeau MDC Nature Center	Sikeston Depot Museum	Dexter Public Library	Poplar Bluff Public Library	Puxico First Midwest Bank	Puxico School?	Powder Valley MDC Nature Center			Wappapello USAC Visitor Center

Pavestones Report by Bruce Beck.

Pavestones ordered by the Greenlees and by James Ross have yet to be received from Christian Monuments in Dexter. Bruce will follow up.

Old Business

Ag Expo in Poplar Bluff January 19-20: Debbie will be setting up the Mingo booth and manning it for both days. Amanda and Bruce will volunteer as they can.

Credit Card Reader for the Bookstore: Until WiFi access is available at the front desk a credit card reader is not feasible. When access should become available it will be necessary to weigh the value of the service against the cost.

Student Conservation Association (SCA) intern: Jessica Reker will be leaving Mingo for a position with a New York state park on Wednesday, January 17. We are extremely grateful for Jessica's service to Mingo and to the Friends. We will miss her and wish her well. Debbie posted the open position this past Friday. The intern could help tend the bookstore and promote membership in Mingo Swamp Friends.

New Business

Membership Promotion: The board discussed ways to promote membership in the Friends group. It was agreed that newspaper and radio ads were not likely to be effective at recruiting members, especially considering the prices. Amanda will contact Amy Walker, marketing associate of KWKZ Radio in Cape Girardeau, that the Friends would not at this time buy radio time with KWKZ. Instead, we will work on a regular newsletter to be mailed to members and Visitor Center visitors who have signed the Swamp Friends guest book on the Visitor Center counter. The newsletter is to tell of past activities and achievement of the Friends and promote future events at Mingo. Bruce has an Excel file of visitors mailing and email addresses. We can send newsletters to them via email or snail mail.

Pavestones for Life Members: Motion by Romine, second by Beck to have pavestones engraved for all life members at Friends' expense. Motion passed. We will work with Judy Plunkett to list the life members.

Wildlife Food Plots on the Refuge: Members agreed that supporting wildlife food plots was favorable for the refuge and an appropriate project for the Friends to support. It was decided to bring this request up for approval at the April meeting, after the Mingo staff and Friends members have opportunity to discuss together the specifics of where to place food plots and what to plant.

Bird Feeders at the Visitor Center: Motion by Bruce, second by Sharon that the Friends make available to Koenigs \$250 to select and buy feeder(s), seed and signage to enhance the bird feeding and visitor viewing. Motion passed.

Children's Library at the Visitor Center: Motion by Romine, second by Sharon to make available to Koenigs \$400 to buy books appropriate for children and the Visitor Center. Motion passed.

Staff Report

Refuge Ranger Debbie Koenig reported on recent activities.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. at the Mingo NWR Visitor Center.

Motion to adjourn: Motion by Beck. Second by Reker. Motion passed. Adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Bruce Beck, Secretary