

Great Saltpetre Cave Preserve

Management Committee Meeting

November 8, 2011

7PM at Molly Malone's in Pleasant Ridge

Committee members present:

Neena Jud
Werner Jud

Richard Duncan
Mike McNabb

Also attending:

James Clements
Bob Dobbs
Bruce Soluski

Brian Pitcher
Janice Gott
Tammy Otten

Announcements

Mike Fille resigned as Youth Group Coordinator for GCG. For now there is a team of coordinators, with Richard Duncan the primary contact person, Brian Blake and Ralph Mann coordinating trips and guides. It would be helpful to have a person in DUG & BGG working with this team. RD noted that Brian Blake is doing a wonderful job.

An article appeared in the Mt. Vernon Signal about the school field trips at the cave.

Jim Pheanis has offered to sell local firewood at the Preserve. Werner paid \$50 for a load of firewood, since the Preserve is running low. This is important as it is illegal to transport firewood with the Emerald Ash Borer infestation.

Secretary

Minutes read no corrections. Motion to Approve (Mike, Neena, by acclaim).

Treasurers Report

Werner reviewed Revenues and Expenses for October 2011. Donations of \$750 included Mt. Vernon Elementary & Beech Grove Baptist Church as well as Scouts and private donations. Merchandise sales was for lots of shirts and toy bats sold to school kids, versus the cost of goods expense of \$200 for

shirts and \$280 for bats (under Misc. expense). Net Income for the month was \$1,592.13 and expenses for the month were \$832.89 for a profit of \$759.24.

Motion to accept the Treasurer's report (RD, Mike, by acclaim).

Caretakers Report

Bill Carr reported that he put up a cable across the road to the backfield to keep the horses out, since they had come in and made a big mess near the shelter and his house. A more permanent solution might be needed. He is against using the elderly tractor to bush-hog the rough terrain of Cornhole. He has a friend who lives nearby and will bush-hog Cornhole for \$100. The Committee thought this was a good idea, but this would be an RKC expense so it is their decision.

Motion to accept the Caretaker's report (RD, Mike, by acclaim).

Business

Schedule updates.

11/11-13 Scout Trip – Tammy Otten, sponsor

11/18-20 Scout Trip – Trey Ferris, sponsor

3/31 – 4/1/12 NCRC Orientation to Cave Rescue Training – still tentative

5/19-20/12 Open House – anniversary of the War of 1812

Green Latrine. Mary Gratsch started applying the interior waterproof coating in the lower level. No expenses this month.

Cave Signs. RKC signs not yet attached. Interpretive signs are ready to be printed.

NCRC Orientation to Cave Rescue. Dates for the weekend cave rescue training at GSP are still tentative.

Camping Fee Policy. In a meeting with the chairs and treasurers of GCG, KOR & GSP, it was agreed to stay with a “per person per night” rate for KOR and have the KOR Committee cover Port-O-Lets and dumpster fee costs. The budgeting for KOR will start with figuring on paying GSP \$4.25 or \$4.50/night per person for two nights and charge a registration fee of \$26 per principal registrant. Tammy explained that KOR is trying to control costs and lower rates to make it more attractive for cavers. They have set reduced fees

and cut out the free Thursday night camping. Any additional nights will be paid to GSP at a \$5.00 per person per night rate. On 11/22 will be a KOR meeting at Molly Malones.

Quorum Issue. Mike feels that GSP should be able to conduct business with only four Committee members in attendance. Werner reported that Pat Hutson said he was in favor of the committee operating on a majority vote of those present, with major decisions with email or phone communication before the meeting. The GSP Committee has four GCG reps and four other reps from BGG & DUG, but GCG is GSP's parent organization. Some of the other reps only follow the committee through email or at GSP location meetings. There is no constitutional mandate for the committee to have a quorum for voting. Neena will approach the GCG Executive Board to ask for an official clarification that GCG is comfortable with meetings to operate with votes based on a majority of those present.

New Business

Storage request. Bruce Soluski prepared a proposal for setting up a policy for storage of campers on the Preserve for a fee. Neena has had a number of comments against the proposal and none in favor. The concerns regard no good place to set up a storage area, perhaps a liability issue, and the proposal is not in synch with the long term goals of the management plan of GSP. The Committee thought the camper storage area was not a good idea. Neena noted that, while income is desired, this was not an appropriate way to earn it, although she thought it was a very well written proposal.

Swing Set. Scott Pavey offered to donate his old swing set to GSP for the use of caver kids. Neena was concerned about liability. Werner talked to the insurance company, who said that installing it would be setting up GSP for an "attractive nuisance" suit. Werner noted that GSP was not a park. Neena has communicated with three Committee members not here that were opposed to it. She acknowledged that it was a wonderful offer, but she thought it was not appropriate for the preserve. Motion to not accept the donation (by acclaim).

Scout Camp Shelter. Pat Hutson has been researching the construction of a timber shelter with sheet metal roof, the

same as the Fairview Cemetery shelter, with a higher gauge metal. It will have no floor. It will be sited in the scout camping area. James Clements noted that the posts should be sited on concrete piers, and offered to help. Pat is costing out the proposal. Neena is concerned about the ground, that the grass will soon turn to mud. Items like picnic tables and mulching or other ground maintenance will be dealt with later. The Committee is in favor and would like to see a detailed proposal with costs.

Caps as GSP Branded Merchandise. Werner would like to print up some caps with the new logo. Tammy noted that some caps just pop off your head, and we should be sure to get quality caps like RKC has to offer.

Bat toys for Sale. Bob Dobbs noted that he has bought two orders of bat toys (through Speleobooks), which each sold out immediately. He would like to place a bigger order in the spring, and have GSP make the purchase. Bob will store the inventory.

Festival to Commemorate the Bicentennial of the War of 1812. Werner passed on Bill Carr's idea of an expanded Open House, since there will be attendees and volunteers already coming. Neena envisions re-enactors and a saltpetre processing demonstration. Cave guides should be in costume. Open House has no admission fee, so this event might need sponsors. Bill Carr offered to be in charge of Open House this year but this will need other volunteers to help with special plans. Neena suggests schools be invited to see the re-enactor's tents and have a short historical tour of the cave on Thursday and Friday. RD suggests that GSP make an exception and allow Black Powder demonstrations for this event. RKC and the Felbourn Foundation may need to approve this. Mike Wuerth, Bob Dobbs & Werner Jud have expressed and interest in developing a demonstration of Saltpetre leaching.

**The next Committee meeting
will be at North Central Branch Library on Hamilton
Avenue at I-275.
Tuesday, December 6th at 7PM**