

Great Saltpetre Cave Preserve Committee Meeting

June 8, 2017 – Jerry Brandenburg’s house

Committee Members Present:

Jerry Brandenburg
Neena Jud
Werner Jud

Bob Roth
Dan Zubal

Also attending:

Bill Carr

Bob Dobbs

Meeting started at 7:16 pm

Secretary’s Report:

Bob Roth made a motion to accept the minutes from last month, DZ 2nd.

Caretaker’s Report:

Bill finished the seventh mowing of this year, made more difficult due to many large vehicles at the Preserve during two weeks of rain, as well as lots of fallen branches & limbs all over. The Mimosa is split in half and laying on the ground.

Bill raised a concern about the drainage system which was installed in 2015. He does not see that it works. There is a lake of water over it, and nothing flows out of the discharge pipe into the creek. He shared two photos during the meeting. Discussion ensued and it was resolved that we must dig through the clay to the gravel at the junction box to see if water can actually get to the drain pipe. The clay may be blocking the water from getting to the gravel, or the clay & dirt may have clogged the gravel. This must be investigated.

After Open House 21 cases of Climax water was left at the Shelter. Were they intended to be saved for KOR? After three weeks, there are only eight cases left.

The recycling cans at the Shelter are still getting knocked over.

The tents in front of the Ticket House need to be taken apart and stowed.

The vendor panel needs to be fixed before KOR. A lug is stripped out.

A brand new dumpster was delivered to replace the old one. It is a bit taller, with plastic sliding doors on the sides as well as a flip top lid. It is already half full. BC proposes getting the large roll-off dumpster next time. No objections.

Lyla Mullins Powell wants to use the Shelter for Little Leaguers on June 17, 2017. This was emailed around, and we agreed but said a committee member or interested party should be there also. Bill said he may not be able to be there and raised a concern about guests leaving the gate wide open. Discussion ensued and it was resolved that someone needs to ask her to tell her guests to close the gate behind them after passing through. It was suggested to provide her with a temporary sign to that effect to tape onto the gate. BC will ask her.

Dan Zubal made a motion to accept the Caretaker’s report, NJ 2nd.

Treasurer's Report:

Income exceeded Expenses in May. Financial Report available upon request.

The campground electric bill this month was within pennies of last month's.

Discussion of water consumption (in light of the boil water advisory just before Open House). This year's consumption (during the month with Open House) was a little over 4,000 gal. In 2016 that month consumed 3100 gal and in 2015 it was 3800 gal. Other months range 1000 – 1700 gal.

The GSP Committee will need to have a new treasurer selected for transition by September's Annual Meeting in the Field (Caver Appreciation Weekend).

Dan Zubal made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, BR 2nd

Old Business

Road Repair grant funding: No new developments. Our contact did say one project's funding was awarded last week. We are among 60-70 projects waiting to be awarded. The disaster money is already available, just waiting for the paperwork to be processed.

Light on the American Flag: Done! Thanks to Gary, Werner & Jerry.

Open House:

Action item: ask Patrick Gibson to send a thank you note to the Rockcastle High School Jr ROTC for help with parking and gravel spreading on the road. Werner will forward letterhead to Patrick & Dan Zubal.

Open House went well. It was not crazy busy. There was no line out to the steps. The "centipede" concept for tours worked. Scott was the only tour guide to take a group into Russian Dome.

The Ticket House Bob started a facebook group to discuss work on the Ticket House and post progress photos. It is currently a "secret" group (cannot be found on a search). He will add committee members tomorrow and make it "private" (findable but not readable), but members can add other people who are interested.

He moved the fundraising poster to the Shelter and we discussed hanging it on the plywood board and keeping it on display during KOR.

Bob started cleaning out the Ticket House (photos on fb page). The plywood panels are down and the Women's Room is cleaned out. His next chance to get down there is the Fourth of July weekend.

EKU meeting: On Monday after Open House, Melissa Dieckmann, Chair of the Department of Geosciences at Eastern Kentucky University, Andrew Polter, Development Director, and Jonathan Malzone, Hydrogeologist visited the Preserve and talked with Sean Cain, Werner & Neena Jud, Jerry Brandenburg, and Fred Ball. (Cory Blackeagle, Karst Geologist visited on Sunday.) They were excited to see the Preserve and shared ideas on how it could be beneficial to their teaching. But first and agreement would need to be worked out between EKU & RKC to limit liability and spell out terms of access, etc. Andrew Polter will deal directly with Sean Cain for this. It would be nice to have initial ideas before the June 11, 2017 RKC summer meeting.

Recycling: Werner reported that James Renner is happy to help us by making the signs at no cost to us. His standard sign is 24" x 36", blue with white lettering. One sign each for glass, metals, and plastics 1 & 2. Werner asked for authorization to proceed, no objections were voiced. We will prepare signposts for these signs.

We are still interested in getting a recycling trailer. Werner will mention this to James and ask to be notified prior to next year's grant application cycle. James suggested coming by sometime to point and talk to develop ideas of what we should get as part of this trailer.

Recycling corral: Jerry will talk to Scott about this, and get something done.

New Business:

Concert: Kentucky Music Hall of Fame revised their concert request to be music only, no food, ticket prices \$25.00 each. We will need to: be there that weekend, and help with chairs & port-o-let. Discussion about use of kitty litter to make transport back out of the cave easier & cleaner. Approved for August 12, 2017. Request link to online ticket sales so we can share it with people who have expressed interest.

NJ made a motion to adjourn, WJ 2nd.

Meeting ended at 8:31 pm.

**Next meeting will be:
7:00 pm, Thursday July 13, 2017 at Jerry Brandenburg's house.**

Calendar Summary:

June 11, 2017	RKC Meeting
June 17, 2017	Lyla Mullins Powell & Little Leaguer's at Shelter
June 17-24, 2017	NCRC Training in Bend Oregon
June 19-23, 2017	NSS Convention in Rio Rancho, New Mexico
July 21-23, 2017	Karst O Rama at GSP
September 9, 2017	Caver Appreciation Weekend at GSP