

GSP Committee Meeting Minutes

August 10, 2023 via Teams

Call to Order: 7:08

Committee members in attendance:			
Scott Pavey	Werner Jud	Neena Jud	Dan Zubal
Fred Ball	Jerry Brandenburg	Dana Sutherland	Chris Redmon
Other attendees			
Josh Heinbuch	Jared Embree	Megan Gaskin	Patrick Gibson
Debi Pavey	Sean Cain	Stephanie Suen	
Announcements			

NJ reports we have the FEMA closeout letter.

NJ reports that Howard [McHargue](#) (the guy that logged [for two adjacent neighbors](#)) passed away. [Please see the May meeting minutes where it was reported that WJ, NJ & WmGB hiked to the property line between GSP & Georgianna's.](#)

JH suggests walking the property line a couple of times a year and putting up signs [to identify the property boundary](#). [Wording and design for the boundary signs are in the works.](#)

Committee Reports	
Secretary's Report	

Motion to accept the amended minutes: NJ Second: CR

Treasurer's Report	
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July expenses [were \\$5475.18](#) – primarily due to the new gravel on our roads. Camping income for the month [was fine](#), but the bottom line is that we had a \$3700 deficit.

No word on [when we should hear from KOR on receiving their camping donations](#). [Loveless should have sent a bill](#), but Werner has not received it yet.

[We have paid off two of the nine CR lenders and whittled the principal sum substantially](#). Another round of [payments is planned for after receipt of the KOR income](#).

Motion to accept: DZ Second: JB

Sub Committee Reports	
Caretaker Report	

It's been wet.

Lyla is in the middle of [her church's revival through Saturday](#).

JH ordered a new deck belt for the Z Turn and fuel lines for the weed eater.

Old Business	
Field Trips	

[NJ reports that she has been sending emails to schools to offer field trips](#). In addition, she has been posting a [sign-up form for volunteers to help guide or tail gun the School Field Trips](#). The Volunteer sign-up page is: <https://signup.com/go/wcWydJZ>

She asks if you have a Friday or Thursday / Friday free you volunteer.

JH reports the projector doesn't work properly [due to a cooling fan issue](#), but the backup unit does, although the back-up doesn't have an HDMI [port and requires RCA jacks](#). [He will test it out after Lyla's reunion is finished](#).

Scouts

JH reports that Scout trips continue [most weekends until October](#). There are also some one-off wild cave trips with other types of groups as well as the occasional group tour of GSP. No troops are currently scheduled for October. One is scheduled for November.

JH also shared that he has seen Scouts using the rain barrel that Dana installed.

KoR

MG reports that KOR looks forward to paying GSP soon!

Scott has funds to give to Werner collected from the Daiquiri Wacker.

There were no negative incidents at KOR this year.

Cave Maintenance

There were two flood lights JH replaced just before the [reunion began for Lyla's church](#).

He also cleaned up the pile of debris that was left outside the Ticket House after the North Wall work.

WiFi

PG has provided a list of items that will be required to have the WiFi we want – [whether it be a fiber optic line or Starlink](#). It will cost about \$1,000 [when finances allow](#). He is not available to purchase and deliver the materials until at least Halloween.

PG reports we will need a messenger cable to string the line overhead, and wonders if Jackson Energy should be [contacted to](#) install poles for us.

If we want to run things underground, we should install a 2" conduit, PG prefers this method.

It was commented that this would be good for protection of the fiberoptics line, but there are serious challenges with digging in that ground.

Starlink is still not available in our area [but would increase our capacity by ten-fold](#). With this system we would use Voice over IP for phone calls. The charges would be approx. \$120/month plus an up-front fee of \$500-600. During KOR, we would be able to split the bandwidth to give the Vendors 50% of the capacity and allow 50% for phone calls.

A Starlink receiver could be installed on the Tractor Barn roof or at the Caretaker's Residence. It may be more protected at the CR.

Once we have better internet, we will not maintain a copper phone line [at the cost of \\$70-80/month](#).

Property Maintenance

WJ reports the [showerhouse](#) septic line and roads have been fixed.

DP reports sign vendor will update the address soon. JH reports that the sign has been updated and will send pics. It looks good!

WJ reports Aaron Bird's Son drove over the power box in the field and damaged it. It's almost \$700 to [replace with a prefabricated traffic rated box](#). He did not place an order. We can build one out of pressure treated lumber similar to one that was built for a pressure regulator in the water line for much less cost.

Ticket House

WJ, NJ and Aaron Collier built 90% of the wall. They still need to [install](#) a top plate and [run](#) electric.

It is not quite time to install the ceiling boards.

Masons

Fred was not in attendance. The [September 23 event is still on the schedule](#), the [September 30 event was cancelled](#). Fred will be the on-site sponsor. No further updates

Hiking Trails

Dana is waiting until the leaves drop [to do any more work on this](#).

Climbing Wall

Dana will send the video Erica Bivens made to Josh for his use with field trips.

No updates at the moment but there was a discussion of bolting vs passive protection. JB would like to pad the trees for anchors, DS would like to install bolts. SS brought up the possibility of installing some bolts, which could be a good training ground for ropework. DZ asks who would have the liability for these bolts? SS says bolts would be left in place, and the hangers would be removed and need to be reinstalled. So only the people who have compatible hangers would be able to utilize the set bolts – which would be 316 stainless steel with an embedment depth of 2” to 3”. DS would prefer a more permanent anchor. It was noted that the rigging tree at the Skylight entrance to Pine Hill which has been used since the early 2000’s has snapped at the rigging spot. WJ commented that he recognizes the Leave No trace principles, he grew up with all protection as passive – take it with you, but he can also see the logic of what SS suggested – just a few bolts. DZ asks who would maintain these. The cost is minimal – just a few dollars per bolt. SS says there is a thing called the Petzl Pulse that can be removed each time after use. The discussion was tabled until another time.

GSP 33

Donations through the GSP 33 fundraising program continue to come in. This winter PG will likely expand beyond the four managing grotto to try to raise funds. Presently we have just over \$2K in this fund.

Hot Tub

There was fund raising at KOR, with many hundreds of dollars committed. There will be a Go-Fund-Me set up at some point. PG would like to start construction this Fall with the Equipment Shed. It will be elevated about two feet above grade on concrete piers utilizing 8” tubes. This will allow floodwaters to pass through/underneath. A new Sauna is planned for higher on the hill to be above floodwaters.

Waivers

PG would like to modernize the waiver system to be a digital database complete with a scannable QR code. This could be beneficial for all of RKC’s Preserves as well as the managing Grottos for GSP. The database would be accessible by all Preserve Managers, and it was suggested that RKC should hold the database. This idea has wide support, but no one knows how to implement it (beyond Patrick). In Ohio, an electronic signature is considered valid. JH reported that it also seems to be acceptable in Kentucky. This will be brought up in the next RKC meeting and removed from the GSP agenda.

Fourteen foot Ladder

The 14’ ladder that Shane is willing to donate to the Preserve is still available. We need someone with a truck to pick it up. WJ thinks he has a way to get it to GSP.

Railroad Ties

Lonnie McGuire has railroad ties we can use. We’re planning on picking them up in 2 weeks.

Social Activities Subcommittee Chair

DZ motions to make Meg the Social Activities Subcommittee Chair. CR Seconded. No opposition.

Caver Appreciation

MG will talk to DP and SP and see what ideas they have. DP has approached the chairs of all grottos for ideas but has not gotten a response. NJ suggested having the chairs of each grotto give a five minute update on what they have been doing or what will be going on. MG asked whether she should consider another Halloween Party like last year. All were in favor, but suggested waiting a while to start advertising, so as not to get in the way of Caver Appreciation.

Regarding communication with other grottos: DUG & COG have open facebook pages. GSP Cavers is a closed page. BGG's page is locked down.

New Business
GSP Expenses

WJ reports all our expenses are on the rise. Please refer to his email on 8/6/2023 about utility cost increases along with escalations in general materials and supplies. After he finishes the RKC taxes, he will send out a spreadsheet comparing the Utility costs from the past five years.

This is so we can consider cost sharing for future big events.

We can either increase income or reduce expenses. WJ noted that we last raised camping donations in January 2022 and is reluctant to increase the rates again so soon.

PG suggested a third course of action – to establish a grant search committee. But they would need to know what we would want to spend money on. We should come up with ideas and prepare a list of “shovel-ready” projects. He will ask all Preserve Managers to create and maintain a list of all significant projects requiring funding. This list will be distributed to a Grant Search committee to search and apply for available grants meeting project criteria.

Intro to Cave Survey

SS would like to host an intro to cave survey class at GSP on October 14, 2023.

This would be a full-day class using the Shelter in the morning and a hands-on session in the afternoon.

The purpose is to familiarize folks with surveying, and to build capacity within Grotto members. Hopefully this can result in a re-survey of Climax Cave.

It will be advertised that overnight camping is available with the camping fees going to GSP. Also, donations to GSP are always appreciated.

Next Meeting

Sunday, September 10, 2023 (Caver Appreciation Weekend) at 10:00 AM, at GSP Shelter

Motion to Adjourn: DS Second: JB