

GSP Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 12, 2024 - virtual

Call to order: 7:07 pm

Committee Members

Debi Pavey Chair GCG Rep	Werner Jud Treasurer GCG Rep	Neena Jud Secretary GCG Rep	Jerry Brandenburg GCG Rep
Fred Ball DUG Rep	Kevin Lorms COG Rep	Mark Swelstad COG Rep	David Lindemuth BGG Rep

Sub-Committee Members

Kristen Harper Caretaker	Scott Pavey Equipment Technician	Meg Gaskin Social Events Coordinator	Darryl Marsh Scouts Coordinator
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Additional Attendees

Sean Cain	Jared Embree	Andy Schofield	Jimmie Hampton
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Announcements

Fred Ball invited Jimmie Hampton with the CD Ward #961 Masons to attend the meeting to report on October's Cave Degree and personally request a similar date in 2025. See Item under New Business.

Secretary's Report

Mark S made a motion to accept the November meeting minutes as distributed. KL seconded.

Treasurer's Report

Income exceeded Expenses in the month of November. Full Report available upon request.

FB moved to approve the Treasurer's report, MS seconded. No objections.

Caretaker's Report

Andy Schofield reported to the Committee on 12/9/2024 that he found a deer stand and trail camera on the Preserve between Brandy Pearl Cave and Jim Perkins Cave when he was out there caving. He brought this to the Committee's attention since no hunting is allowed at the Preserve.

Kristen suggests removing the deer stand & accompanying camera and leaving a note to contact us to get their property back. This would enable us to find out their identity and ask nicely to not hunt on our property. If it returns, Kristen will have the information with which to contact the Game Warden to investigate. Her biggest concern is that the deer stand is close to these two caves and stray bullets go far. In addition, she recommends placing an advertisement in the newspaper saying no hunting, no trespassing.

Jerry's concern is that since we have been managing the Preserve, we have said no hunting but haven't cared about trespassing. This would be a big change. They are not the same thing.

Kristen countered that there have been new people moving into the area lately, and they are the ones we are more concerned about – not our long time neighbors so much. The situation is likely to get worse.

Werner agreed with Jerry's thought that this would be a big change for us, but the times have changed. He suggested boundary signs before, and now feels that they are even more necessary and should have a strong message on them, not ask nicely.

Fred agreed that we need to mark the property line and suggests blazing the trees with spray paint.

Andy shared that the position of the tree stand suggests that the hunter would be shooting towards Brandy Pearl. He also appreciated the comment made about foraging – do we want to allow others to collect mushrooms, moss, ginseng, slippery elm bark? He posits we do not.

Kristen shared that when she first moved to the area, she went to each of the neighbors to ask permission to ride horses on their land and offered to report back to them if she saw anything untoward. She suggests that it isn't asking too much to require folks to make a connection with us if they want to hike on the Preserve. It is quite possible that people who are wandering are looking for those natural resources to come back for when the time is right to pick them.

Debi offered that the presence of our locked gate sends a message of no trespassing anyway. David mentioned that our practice of giving names of grotto members to the Caretaker means that the Preserve is not really open anyway. Plus, we have been discussing getting security cameras. Scott suggested a sign like in State Parks saying enter at the main gate only.

After more discussion, a motion was made to place an advertisement in paper starting the last week of August, running through the end of January each year covering archery and rifle seasons. It should state no hunting, no foraging, no trespassing, and something like violators will be prosecuted, following the pattern of other advertisements. Seconded by KL, no objections.

Marking of our boundaries with signs and blazes will still be pursued. Remember to wear bright obvious colors when going into the woods during hunting season.

Sub-committee Reports

Miscellaneous Property Maintenance

- Waterline – PR3 Replacement – Werner Jud
 - Thanks to Scott & Jerry for assistance filling in the waterline excavations.
- Tractor has been brought back to Scott Pavey's shop for repair.
- Ticket house renovation – Werner Jud/Scott Pavey/Jerry Brandenburg – dust protective membrane on the ceiling joists has started, and will be completed before Scott & Jerry are unleashed to install the ceiling.
- Lights in the Cave – A few lights and sockets in the Cave still need to be repaired.
- Atlas Pillar Electric Panel Replacement – no change since last meeting
- Utility pole outside of the Cave – no change since last meeting.
- Locks & Gate Combo
 - We will change combinations at our meeting on site in January.
 - Additional tractor barn keys are needed.
- WiFi – Patrick Gibson – no change since last meeting
 - Patrick will prepare an instruction sheet on how to make phone calls over the internet on individual cell phones (VOIP) and post it at the Shelter.
 - There has been a phone in the mailbox at the CR for emergencies. We will still add a sign in the Shelter directing people to it.

- Cameras – Patrick Gibson
 - Debi will talk with Patrick about them this weekend.

Social Activities Chair Report – Meg Gaskin

OPEN HOUSE – Kevin Lorms

- Jessica with the Rockcastle Tourism Board reached out to Debi to ask how we want to handle publicity through them. Debi responded to list Open House on their calendar and provide a link to our website for additional information, and that's it (no facebook posts).
 - This will allow other groups to see our dates and plan around them.
- Dates of Open House 2025 – May 17 & 18

KOR (June 6-8, 2025) – Meg Gaskin

- The concept of KOR being a multi-grotto event is still up in the air. It will be voted on at the next GCG Board meeting on December 30, 2024. Meg is strongly advocating for a multi-grotto event to get more volunteers.

Status Reports

CR repayment Fundraising

- CR Repayment Fundraising
 - Some loan forgiveness is going on.
 - Total outstanding liability for the CR: \$22,195.47, down from the initial \$53,000.

Grant application – Neena Jud & Jared Embry

- Grant program through Kentucky Colonels applicable for the Entry Road.
- Scope of work: Major rehabilitation or reconstruction of the asphalt portion of the Entry Drive. Work will not occur until late July or August due to announcing grant recipients in mid June.
- Neena will be meeting with potential contractors this weekend at the Preserve.
 - Currently guessing a budget of \$40,000.
 - Minimum three bids are required.
 - Grant application due January 10, 2025
- Kevin Lorms was considering contacting local politicians to see if their offices might help us with things like a new road or a new bridge or similar.
 - Three State Representatives serve on Kentucky Historical related Committees.
 - The Mayor of Mt. Vernon was at our National Register of Historic Places plaque unveiling.
 - We could provide a private tour for these officials and their staff. Let them suggest things they could help us with and let them get some political strokes in their circles about befriending us.
 - Maybe wait until after the Ticket House is complete.
 - Kevin is willing to spearhead this effort.

Other Calendar Requests

12.31.2024 – 1.1.2025 – Angela Marie Rhodes sponsoring an annual New Year's gathering for Central Indiana Grotto (CIG). Darryl will be there and be the kitchen sponsor.

Field Trips – Neena Jud

- Field Trips are finished for the season. Watch the calendar for Spring trips.

Scouts and Outreach – Darryl Marsh

- Scouts are finished for the year. Requests are rolling in for next year.

Lyla Requests – Debi Pavey

- Not mentioned, but no requests anticipated until around Open House.

Grotto membership lists

- Membership lists are in Kristen's hands.

Kitchen Training

- David Lindemuth still needs Kitchen Training as a Committee member. Potential date – Jan 10th weekend.

GSP Committee Grotto Composition

- Holding on discussions with RKC.

Friends of GSP – not discussed – retaining notes from August meeting

- DP still has not had a chance to reach out to the Brickleys to see if they are still interested.

Signage on the Preserve

- Scott should have a sample of interior directional signage ready by our January 10th weekend.
- Once the entry drive is rehabilitated, Scott has an idea to revamp our entry sign in stone and wood, similar to National Parks.

Cost of garbage pick-up > Camping fees

- Following up on last month's discussion Debi asked about increasing camping fees. Fred recommended doing so. In addition, he suggested reigning in the Electric sites for vehicle charging. A side thought of vehicle chargers as a revenue source was mentioned.
- The bigger concern is that Electric, Water and Garbage expenses have gone up since we last raised rates two years ago. Werner reiterated his concern that we are not being sufficiently compensated for electric usage.
- Current rates are \$8.00/person/night camping plus \$8.00/night/site for electric sites. Debi suggested changing the electric premium to \$8.00/**person**/night.
- Andy suggested raising the nightly rate, but keeping the annual camping passes the current rate, making them more attractive.
- Last month's suggestion to put signs at the Electric Sites, Lower Mondo and Shelter with the QR codes was repeated. Make it easy for them to pay and they will be more likely to comply.
- Mark asked about the impact of the Hot Tub/Sauna on electric usage. It seems to be not as much of a concern as Werner originally thought. Add a QR code there as well.
- David argued against raising camping rates for Scouts. Currently they are \$1.00 more than member & guest rates. David has heard from some troops that \$9.00/person/night x 2 nights is more expensive than other locations where they pay a flat rate for a large site. Discussion concluded that it might be dependent upon the troop and their own finances. We could eliminate that extra since we have not had scouts requesting funds for projects at the Preserve.
- Debi proposed leaving the camping fees for Scouts what they currently are. Alternatively drop the Scout rate down to \$8.00/person/night (in consideration of what David said) and not have new money going into the Scout Fund - for a while. Andy further suggested a hardship rate for inner city or super-rural scout troops – like half cost or \$5.00/night.
- Werner's gut says that due to our debts, actual and anticipated increases in utilities and services, we will see a noticeable spike in our service costs. He will work on the budget spreadsheet comparing the last three years of income/expenses and projecting next year.

- Neena reminded all that when someone volunteers for school field trips or wild caving trips, we offer a trade-off: give us your time & effort and you don't have to pay for camping. Raising the camping rates to \$9 or \$10 for everyone else may be appropriate.
- Sean Cain commented that \$10 per night is a bargain. There were a number of likes on this.
- The issue is tabled until Werner sends out the budget comparison. Then we can discuss it via email or at the next meeting.
- Ideas raised for consideration:
 - Keep camping rate at \$8.00/person/night
 - Raise camping rate to \$9.00/person/night
 - Raise camping rate to \$10.00/person/night
 - Keep Scout camping rate at \$9.00/person/night
 - Lower Scout camping rate to \$8.00/person/night
 - Suspend putting \$1.00/person/night into Scout Fund
 - Keep Electric site rate equivalent to camping rate/site/night
 - Change Electric site rate to equivalent to camping rate/person/night
 - Keep camping passes at current rates - \$50/individual and \$75/family
 - Put QR codes & signs at all electric usage – Elec sites, Mondo, Hot Tub, Shelter

New Business

Masons Cave Degree – Fred Ball

- Jimmie Hampton with CD Ward #961 Lodge said last October's Cave Degree had 118 members in attendance, four states were represented. He made a request for Saturday, October 11, 2025. Set up 4-5:00 Friday night, be out by 4-5:00 Saturday night.
- Currently there are two other Cave Degrees going on in the region, and neither is accessible. One is in Kingston Tennessee at a public cave with tourists passing by - more attendees in about one third of the space. The other is in West Virginia was a private cave.
- Last week Fred gave a presentation to the Westerville Royal Arch Masons about GSP and they may be interested in having a Mark Master Degree here. Olentangy Indian Caverns charged Westerville \$1000 for a single day. Fred shared photos of the CD Ward Cave Degree with them and they are interested.

Continued on next page.

Project List – see Miscellaneous Property Maintenance above for discussions

Task	Priority	Budget	Assigned To	Due Date
Quickbooks software upgrade			Werner Jud	
Bridge (or Modify Spillway Access) to the Point			Scott Pavey Pat Hutson	
Shower house roof re-shingle			James Clements	
Shower house roof vents install			James Clements	
Leopold bench by Ellie’s Plaque			Werner Jud	
Entry drive repair				
Kitchen electrical panel replacement				
Kitchen exterior conduit repair				
Repair and seal walls against rodents				
Ticket house electrical			Werner Jud	
Ticket house ceiling			Jerry Brandenburg Scott Pavey	
Ticket house walls			Jerry Brandenburg	
Ticket house memorial plaques			Neena Jud	
Wi-Fi setup and reconnection			Patrick Gibson	
Water line upgrades			Werner Jud	Ph 2 compl. Dec. 2024

Next Meeting

Next meeting to be **Saturday** January 11, 2025, at **4:00 pm** at the Preserve, and also virtually. Start **work** at the Preserve at 10 am, meet at the CR.

Motion to Adjourn (9:00pm): KL
 Second: NJ
 Vote: No opposition