

## GSP Committee Meeting Minutes

Saturday, January 11, 2025 – GSP Caretaker’s Residence & virtually

Call to order: 4:09 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	<del>David Lindemuth</del>  BGG Rep

### Sub-Committee Members

Kristen Harper Caretaker	Scott Pavey Equipment Technician	<del>Meg Gaskin</del> Social Events Coordinator	<del>Darryl Marsh</del> Scouts Coordinator
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### Additional Attendees

Sean Cain	Tera Williamson	B.J. Pitcher	Jared Embree
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### Announcements

None.

Work completed earlier in the day:

Replaced the front gate lock with new lock and new combination.

Ticket House ceiling membrane finished.

Temporary QR Codes installed on electric posts, in lower Mondo, and at Shelter

Bridge to Russian Dome repaired as well as handrail.

### Secretary’s Report

Jerry B made a motion to accept the December meeting minutes as distributed. Fred B seconded.

### Treasurer’s Report

Income exceeded Expenses in the month of December. *Full report available upon request.*

Two camping passes have been purchased so far.

FB moved to approve the Treasurer’s report, JB seconded. No objections.

### Caretaker’s Report

Kristen reported that the deer stand & accompanying camera were taken down, with the assistance of Werner & Neena Jud. There has been no response received to the note we left saying contact us to get your stuff back. She will next contact the local sheriff’s department to see if it was stolen. If not, then we can dispose of it.

Werner expressed appreciation for Kristen’s experience, and expedient addressing of this issue.

We got the notice discussed last month posted in the Mt. Vernon Signal to run for one month. They printed it at no cost to us. They understand our concern and agree that things have changed.

After more discussion, it was agreed to add “without permission” referencing “no trespassing” to the newspaper notice.

Last week during the snowfall, there was a power failure lasting from Monday morning to Tuesday just after noon. No pipes froze in the Shelter Kitchen, but Kristen suggested draining it down since the low overnight temperatures are expected to last for the next week or so. She is discussing back-up power options for the CR with WJ.

## **Sub-committee Reports**

### **Miscellaneous Property Maintenance**

- Tractor has been opened up. Scott sees nothing really major and will likely order parts next week.
- Ticket house renovation – the dust protective membrane affixed to the ceiling joists was completed today by Neena & Werner.
- Bridge to Russian Dome – was repaired today along with the railing by Scott, Jerry, Fred & Debi.
- 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 – panels are ready, waiting to be installed.
- Locks & Gate Combo - the front gate lock was replaced this morning. The new combination is now in effect.
- 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 – no comment received.

### **Social Activities Chair Report – Meg Gaskin (not in attendance)**

#### **OPEN HOUSE – Kevin Lorms**

- The Rockcastle Tourism Board now has Open House on their calendar as mentioned last month.
- Dates of Open House 2025 – May 17 & 18
- Kevin reports that Kelly McNamara is contacting volunteers from last year and is mentioning that any efforts they expend preparing GSP for Open House will also benefit KOR which is two weeks later.
- Kevin asked if anyone has connections with the current mayor of Mt. Vernon or other local officials? The answer was no, so he will make cold calls.
- Kevin does not anticipate any budget changes but noted that more paper goods will need to be purchased this year.
  - Jerry requested more environmentally friendly serving products than Styrofoam bowls and plastic silverware (i.e. bowls of waxed paper and starch based silverware) since we are a conservancy. Werner agreed it is worth considering. The costs will be explored before a decision is made.

### **KOR (June 6-8, 2025) – Meg Gaskin (not in attendance)**

- Debi shared information and a request she received from Meg.
  - GCG has approved allowing KOR to be a multi-grotto event this year as a trial. It will be organized the same as it has always been - with a Committee and separate finances. The KOR Committee will determine the distribution of the profits after the camping fees and facility fees have been paid to GSP (Meg has expressed her preference that all profits go to GSP).
  - The request is to be able to hold the Friday night Howdy Party in Echo Auditorium, considering that our signs say no food or drink in the Cave. No objections were made, but stipulations were applied: close off the path to the North gate, Richard's Run and Signature Alley, limiting the party to Echo Auditorium which limits clean-up. A recommendation was shared: the band should be acoustic. Our experience with amplified music in the Cave revealed that all the hard surfaces are too acoustically reflective, and amplified sound gets too muddled to understand – it becomes noise. Someone else mentioned that when other parties occurred in the Cave, smokers would leave for a cigarette, and not come back in. We also started a discussion about having a Port-O-Let in the Cave and tabled that for another meeting.

### **Status Reports**

#### **CR repayment Fundraising**

- CR Repayment Fundraising
  - Nothing further has occurred since last month.

#### **Grant application – Neena Jud & Jared Embry**

- Jared submitted the grant application to the Kentucky Colonels Good Works Grant Program on Thursday, January 9, 2025.
- We requested funds to rehabilitate the asphalt portion of the Entry Drive. They will not make their decision until mid-June.
  - We requested \$ 52,030, which was the lowest bid, and was reasonably complete.
  - The most comprehensive bid received was for \$164,225 from a company that does interstate highway work. They proposed the greatest amount of work to rebuild the road to last for a long, long time, but they also have a lot of overhead.
  - The third bid, which proposed the least amount of work, was for \$55,000.
- A copy of the grant application documents can be found in the following folder: [KY Colonels Submitted Application 2025](#) *(This may be only available to Committee members. If you cannot access it, send Neena an email and she will share it directly.)*

#### **Field Trips – Neena Jud**

- Spring Field Trips are blocked out in the calendar starting in April.

#### **Scouts and Outreach – Darryl Marsh (not in attendance)**

- The calendar shows wild cave trips in February and March.

#### **Lyla Requests – Debi Pavey**

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

#### **Grotto membership lists**

- Not mentioned. *(subsequently Treasurer stated he would like lists to indicate expiration dates.)*

### Kitchen Training

- David Lindemuth still needs Kitchen Training as a Committee member.

### GSP Committee Grotto Composition

- Still holding on discussions with RKC.

### Friends of GSP

- Werner spoke with Jeff Brickley in order to close the financial books on the 2024 year. The Brickley's had been discussing closing down the Friends since there has been no activity. Jeff offered to close the bank account and send the balance of the funds to Werner with a request that they be used for a memorial for Bob Dobbs.
  - With this action, the Friends of GSP program is closed for now. It can be reactivated in the future when a Committee Representative is available and willing to be the liaison.

### Signage on the Preserve

- Scott has an idea on interior directional signage pointing to Shelter, Scout Camp and speed limit signs. He was suggesting routed wood, with the letters painted with reflective paint.
- Neena shared a mock-up of a proposed boundary sign (pdf attached). It is sized for a 12" x 18" metal sign like "No Parking" signs. Decision to prioritize putting signs up in the southeast portion of our boundary from the path and drainage near Icebox, clockwise along Georgina and Slusher boundaries towards French. We will get a price for 20 signs to start with.
- Last month we decided to place QR Codes directing folks to our Paypal site so they can pay for electric usage at all the electric sites, including the lower Mondo. Neena prepared some 3" x 4" signs on cardstock, laminated for weather resistance, as a trial. These were installed on the six posts in the campground, at the lower Mondo, at the post on the Point, and two were installed under the Shelter.

### Camping fees & Budget

- Last week, Werner sent an email to the Committee and others with an Excel spreadsheet and a pdf of the Budget Comparison for the years 2021-2024 and a projection for 2025 with three scenarios – keeping the camping rates at \$8/night, raising to \$9/night and raising to \$10/night.
- All three projected budgets kept the camping passes as they currently are (\$50 individual, \$75 family) and kept Scouts consistent at \$9/night.
- All three budget scenarios project our Net Income to be in the black. But Werner pointed out the Liabilities we are carrying at the bottom of page 2 (paying back the Lenders for the CR and paying on the Scag). These debts, plus expected increases in expenses, require GSP to nudge up our camping fee rate. *(If you did not receive the spreadsheet and want to review it, send Neena an email.)*
- Discussion about Scout rate followed. Comments have been received that \$9/night for Scouts is generally not an issue. We are willing to give Scouts from poorer backgrounds a discount on a case by case basis. It was suggested to remind folks of our services to Scouts offered through Darryl, which include a guided wild cave trip in addition to a tour through GSP.
- Debi Pavey made a motion to leave the camping passes at their current rates, leave Scouts at \$9/night, raise general camping to \$10/night and raise electric sites to \$10/night/site. NJ 2<sup>nd</sup>. No objection.

- We are to share a reminder with our Grottos that electric sites have always been extra. Werner showed the new Camping passes which state this in red type on the bottom of the pass.
- In order to share the message with our grottos about our financial challenges and raising camping rates, we should write blurbs for our newsletters and put up a sign in the Shelter. They should mention the QR Codes to easily pay for electric usage. They should also mention that our dumpster change outs are \$250 each time in addition to the \$45/month dumpster rental fee. Therefore, we need to fill the dumpster efficiently, including cutting cardboard boxes to lay flat and not tying bags shut so they are more easily compacted.
- *Not mentioned was the suspension of transferring \$1.00/person/night into the Scout Fund from Scout payments. Since Scout rate is staying at \$9/night and general rate is going to \$10/night and there are still a few thousand dollars in the Scout Fund, this will be discontinued for now.*

## New Business

### New Sauna Structure – Jared Embree

- Jared, on behalf of the Sauna Committee, introduced the idea of a New Sauna structure to be built higher on the hillside before getting into the trees.
  - The current sauna can only hold about 6 or so people, and there have been a few burns over the years.
  - Jared's design is larger, flood resilient and proposed to be insulated. It will require only minimal electricity.
  - The old sauna structure is fine and was recently re-roofed, so it will be repurposed.
  - They are not asking for any GSP funds at all. They have some materials and have enough donations to get the structure built. They will do fundraising to be able to install the planned interior finishes.
  - They request input from the Committee so they can improve and further develop these ideas which they will bring back to the next Committee meeting as a full proposal.
- Comments from the Committee:
  - Sturdy enough to not wash downstream. (floor level will be above top of the recently constructed hot tub)
  - More visually appealing than the current sauna. (will be constructed to match the recently constructed pump house)

**Project List – see Miscellaneous Property Maintenance above for discussions**

<b>Task</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Assigned To</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Quickbooks software upgrade			Werner Jud	
Bridge (or Modify Spillway Access) to the Point			Scott Pavey Pat Hutson	
Shower house roof vents install			James Clements	
Leopold bench by Ellie's Plaque			Werner Jud	
Entry drive repair		\$52,030	Neena Jud	
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	
Security Cameras		\$1,300	Patrick Gibson	
Water line upgrade – tab meter & shut-off for CR		No cost	Werner Jud	

**Next Meeting**

Next meeting to be Thursday February 13, 2025, at 7:00 pm at Jerry Brandenburg's, and virtually.

Motion to Adjourn (6:00pm): WJ

Second: FB

Vote: No opposition