



The meeting of the Board of Directors of the *Friends of Mildred Kanipe Memorial Park Association, Inc.* was called to order on Friday, February 17, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. at Deb Gray's. Present were: Midge McGinnis, Steve Kennerly, Deb Gray, Karen Roberson, Ron McMullin and Leslye Wing. Member guests: Mike Burke, Fred Groh and Rene Burk County Guest: Matt Moreland.

AGENDA

County Parks Guest – Matt Moreland

Matt attended our meeting today. He provided us with a wealth of information!

- Hired last July
- Military experience – extensive plane experience
- Vandalism is on the rise at all campgrounds. We discussed the locking of day use area gate at night. He will check into this to see if it can be locked every night..
- Equipment shed roof repair needs to wait until ground is dry so they can get equipment up to it.
- New day use signs are coming.
- Oak tree (hazardous) over Mildred's grave has been removed.
- Discussed placing cameras in the park. One is on order.
- Extensive information regarding the Adopt a Park program. He believes we have a valid one until 2014. Made suggestions on what to put on the application. (ie: tree planting, painting of trail signs, Adopt A Highway, clear hawthorn from around pond, continue restoration of school house, treating wooden benches and agreed it isn't possible to anticipate every future activity.
- Only one operations manager to cover 70 parks across the county.
- Work parties should give county 5 day notice.
- County is building two new picnic tables.
- Safety/mitigation are of prime concern to county.
- Communication is key (both ways).
- Park Benches: The recent issue with them was discussed in detail. The county now requires them to be metal (extremely expensive) vs. wood. Matt said the

benches Ron made are great, but the county believes wood is a safety issue and a maintenance workload.

Friends asked if the wooden benches could be placed off of more remote trails like the Fern Woods or Mildreds Forest where metal benches are not as appropriate and with the understanding that they do weather and will not last indefinitely. Friends already weatherize existing trail benches/pond table and are glad to continue doing that with the new ones. Matt will check into this and let us know. We hope to have a solution by our next meeting.

Memorial plaques are allowed in our county parks. Friends will cooperate with the county on new locations for the Celia Scott and Wally Rainsberry plaques.

Orchard

Grant will only cover actual work, Class that Rene and Karen attended suggested another grant, which Karen is looking into. Idea presented to ask for donations to cover cost of trees and place a marker on them with donors name. Also need to address drainage and water to get trees thru summer.

Cemetery Grant

There is estimated to be 16 people buried at the site. Grant would cover fencing around the graves. Original fencing taken down by Mildred. Steve has details of costs from Northwest Fencing (including 196 feet of wrought iron fencing). SHPO has approved (Kuri). Need to obtain County's approval prior to submitting grant request. Rene has volunteered to help with this project.

Calenders

Board voted NO as an annual calender would have a limited purchase time and most everyone is now receiving 'free' calenders from multiple sources.

UPDATES and OTHER ITEMS

Mug Sales – Deb delivered \$265 to Midge today from mug sales. Still have inventory so no need to order more right now.

Right to Access – We have the final updated Right to Access. Zak can start anytime. Midge will need to contact Ford Foundation in April with status of work and request an extension if nothing done yet. Final Report due on June 30, 2023.

Status of Fall Fundraising – Online FB request for donations resulted in \$353 more! Great idea. Thank you Deb!

Newsletter – Newsletters are being met with a great response! Have started receiving requests to be added to mailing list, most like due to word of mouth or Facebook. Fred has info on hand and in the pipeline that will probably cover newsletters to November.
Letter of Support to SAR – SAR training sessions have been stopped at Kanipe as dogs are off leash. We have written a letter of support for them to be able to use Kanipe again. Great area for training and dogs are very well trained and under control.

PAB Meetings – Deb went to last meeting (supossidly to happen every 3rd Thursday of month. No one there and she was advised they only have them when needed. Karen is checking to us getting notice when they are being held. Midge found a way to sign up for notices of those meetings and events at parks on County Website. She signed herself up to see if it actually works.

New Brochure – Fred has done a draft of a brochure. Hope is that when a local organization is having an event, we could help ‘advertise’ it with agreement that we can place the brochures at the event.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Buggy Cleaning – Work party to be set up sometime in spring (May?)

NEXT MEETING

March 24, 2023 - 10 a.m. – Deb Gray’s

**Meeting Adjourned approximately 12:00 noon
THANK YOU DEB and RON hosting us.**