

Friends of Punderson Park
August 12, 2008

Ms. Haas called the meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Present: Norm Swann, Don Pizmoht, Phyllis Pizmoht, Katrina Haas, Janine Rybka, Nick Fischbach, Beverly Fischbach, Liz Hills, Marshall Hills, Norm Owens, Nancy Owens, Dave Kellogg

Review of July minutes-A correction was made to the spelling of Phyllis Pizmoht's name

Committee Reports

Assistant Park Manager-Norm Swann mentioned that volunteers are needed to assist at the Punderson Park Booth at the Geauga County Faire on Thursday from 4-7 p.m. Bev Fischbach and Katrina Haas will assist. Ms. Rybka will work the booth on Monday, September 1 in the afternoon. Parking passes and gate tickets will be distributed by Ms. Accord.

Mr. Swann indicated that a new archery target has been set up at the Archery Range. The park currently has 11 new targets and 9 more are expected. Marshall Hills offered to assist. Additional volunteers are needed to erect the targets and may call Norm Swann at the Park Office.

Membership Recruitment-The Friends of Punderson is growing and the group would like to encourage new members to join. Ms. Fischbach suggested members are encouraged to join and assist where ever they can with the understanding that it may be difficult for people to attend meetings. The group agreed that providing incentives to new members would be beneficial.

Board President update-The members discussed the various projects that need to be done around the park and chose three as top priority: painting the tennis and basketball courts, building a new playground for local children and park visitors, which would require raising approximately \$22,000, and updating the nature center. The group discussed placing a donation request on the website for all projects, but the site could also depict the playground to give potential donors a look at what is being proposed. Friends of the park could also donate funds by purchasing an engraved brick, a park bench, or donating towards the playground or nature center improvements. If a large donation could be secured, there would be an opportunity for naming rights. Ms. Haas said that grants may be a potential source of funding for the playground and mentioned that Home Depot has a grant opportunity program.

Members felt it important to learn more about the public's expectations and needs within the park. Ms. Haas will work on a survey that can be administered at the nature center and campground

Financial Report—The three ice socials brought in \$361 dollars. The current balance in the account is \$5,882.94 **(not sure if the total is correct)**

Please note that membership applications and donations should be sent to: **Friends of Punderson Park, P.O. Box 338, 11755 Kinsman Road, Newbury, Ohio 44065-9684**

Friends of Punderson has collected prizes for a raffle that will be held through September 15th. Tickets will be sold at the campground and nature center for \$1 each or 6 tickets for \$5. The prize includes, a two-day camping pass, round of golf for four and dinner for four at Punderson Lodge. Additional prizes may be added. Mr. Kellogg offered to sell raffle tickets during at the campground.

Website/Newsletter-The newsletter will be ready to go out later in August. Ms. Haas and Mr. Swann will contribute articles. Information about donating to the Friends of Punderson for park needs will be established. Mr. Kellogg will secure the banking information. The website will also serve as a tool for volunteer recruitment.

Park Facility/Campground Update-Mr. Fischbach will arrange presentations about the park to local businesses and Rotary. Members discussed the Chalet operations and whether or not volunteers could assist as it is a huge commitment in time. There may be a possibility of offering winter campers a camping spot in exchange for running the Chalet. At least four people are needed per shift and a relief schedule is needed as well. Movies will be shown in the campground until the end of August. Trail maintenance is needed. The Pizmoths will ask if the Sled Dog Club members are interested in helping.

Mr. Fischbach informed the members about the history of Punderson Park. He said the original owners of the land was the Cleveland Family and the property was used as a game farm at one time. Two doctors owned the property before it was purchased by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. Mr. Fischbach is excited about re-connecting with William Cleveland III and hopes to invite the family to the park this fall.

Special Events Update-It was decided that the timing is too late to plan a Fall Festival, however the group did decide to plan a **Halloween Campout on Saturday, October 11 from noon-8:00 p.m.** that will include trick or treat in campground, music, cider and donuts, pumpkin decorating, a pumpkin roll, and costume contest. An invitation will also be extended to the broader community.

Nature /History Update-The Coopers Milk Vetch, a rare plant, seems to be taking hold in the park. Nine plants have now been spotted!.

Old news—Paddle Quest, August 23, 2008.

New Business-Future discussions will center on fundraising in the Chalet this winter, volunteer projects, and spring clean ups and National Trail Day. Members bid adieu to Norm and Nancy Owens who will be leaving after Labor Day.

Elections for board members will be held at the October meeting.

Next meeting September 9th at park Office.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Saturday, October 11

Boo at the Campground

Noon- 8:00 p.m.

Trick or treatpumpkin decorating

Halloween parad

Pumpkin roll

Cider and donuts

Candy apples

Pumpkins with activities inside