

# PINEY RUN RECREATION AND CONSERVATION COUNCIL

30 Martz Road  
Sykesville MD 21784



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## MEETING MINUTES

March 21, 2024

### ATTENDEES

Claude Hoerner

Renee Schoff

Jeff Schoff

Rita Jacobs

Kelly Biggs

Basil Levesque (C)

*(C) - Non-voting County employee*

Jon Biggs

Drew Schoff

Lorrie Voytek

Bud Henkel

Diane Henkel

Linda Coyne

Dylan Collins (C)

Valli Adams

Pauline Cottrell

John Cottrell

Theresa Walton

**Rita** called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No changes were offered to the January 18, 2024 meeting minutes that were previously distributed to all members. **Bud** motioned for their acceptance, and the minutes were approved by the members as submitted

### TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer's report for the period 1/16/24 through 03/19/24 had been previously provided to Council members via email. **Renee** highlighted these areas of interest:

- Total income for this period was \$7,550. Expenses were \$4,783.
- Income was received for the March 22 Coffeehouse and the May 4 Basket Weaving class.
- Nature Center memberships have dropped since last year (297 last year vs. 189 this year). The reason for the decline is unknown.

- \$2,980 was spent on the Rat Snake enclosure project. The Council will be fully reimbursed by a grant awarded by MAEOE (Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education).
- Our second largest expense this period was for the 20% fee the County charges us for our mandated use of RecDesk (\$926).
- This fiscal year, we exceeded our budget for animal care.
- We had 21 paid vendors and about 150 patrons for the Cabin Fever craft show. Net income was \$895.

The IRS approved our application for 501(c)3 status. **Renee** is now working on forms and applications required by the state.

The scholarship announcement has been distributed, and applications are due April 10.

In addition to the upcoming Coffeehouse and Basket Weaving class, our Celebrate Spring Event and Spring Perennial Swap will be held Saturday, May 11. We would normally have five vendors in the yurt, but it has been rented for a birthday party. In compensation, the County reimbursed the Council for the vendor fees we would have otherwise received.

The Council will receive 5% of the food vendor sales from Sasquatch Saturday, June 15.

**Lorrie** asked how enrollment for the summer camps is going. **Dylan** said there is only one session that has a few vacancies and there are waiting lists for the older kids groups.

## **PARK OPERATIONS**

**Dylan** said the Nature Center roof repair is completed and they are happy with the final results.

**Dylan** provided an update of the Pavilion 2 reconstruction. The frame is up, the retaining wall is complete, and the concrete has been poured. The roofing material has not arrived and it is not known when it will be delivered. Electrical lines have

been installed but there is an issue with the lines and the structure; the manufacturer has been contacted. The contractor is now estimating completion in mid-April.

**Renee and Dylan** said there are 27 vendors signed up for Sasquatch Saturday. This number includes food and drink provided by White Rock IME Church, Cryin' Johnnies hot dog cart, a snow cone vendor, and two distilleries. Live music will also be provided. Two new activities are being added to the program.

## **FRIENDS OF CARROLL RECREATION AND PARKS**

**Rita** said the next meeting of the FoCRP is April 23.

## **NATURE CENTER OPERATIONS**

**Basil** said they are nearly ready to open the Children's Room. Most of the exhibit tanks in the building have undergone a major upgrade; the remainder will be completed soon.

As previously mentioned, we were awarded a grant from MAEOE to hold a teacher workshop on animal enclosures. Nine teachers participated. Most of the grant money went towards constructing a new enclosure for our black rat snake, and this work should be completed in about 16 days.

**Renee** talked about the upcoming Mother's Day activities, which will include the Celebrate Spring Craft Show and a Perennial Swap on May 11. Held in the Nature Center, the craft show will feature craft vendors as well as free craft activities. During the afternoon, the Perennial Swap will take place outside the Nature Center. Attendees will be able to donate unwanted plants and/or acquire plants at no cost. Gardening advice will also be available.

**Theresa Walton** discussed the results of a project she undertook as part of her Master Gardener Certification and on behalf of the Council to research the feasibility of installing osprey platforms in Piney Run Lake. She provided the members with information on osprey populations and behavior, and outlined a plan she believes is easily obtainable in the park and should have a good chance of

attracting ospreys. Initially, two nests are proposed: one in the lake's nature preserve, and the other at the opposite end of the lake in what is sometimes referred to as Dot's Cove. The cost of materials for two nests is roughly estimated to be between \$500 and \$2,000. **Theresa** will provide a more precise cost in the next month. **Wayde** believes the park staff is capable of building the nests.

## OLD BUSINESS

**Rita** requested volunteers to review applications for the two \$1,500 scholarships the Council awards each year. **Kelly** and **Jeff** volunteered to do so. **Erin Heinrich** previously notified us that she will also serve on the review committee.

## NEW BUSINESS

**Basil** is looking into hosting an animal tracking workshop in mid-June that will provide tracking certifications. The workshop will be led by a paid instructor. The intent is that the student fees for the workshop will cover the cost of the instructor.

**Renee** said the owner of BotaniGal, a Sykesville plant store, had been looking for a place to hold classes for her customers. An agreement was reached whereby the classes will be held in the yurt, and in return, the owner will donate five dollars per student for every class to the Council. The first class will be Friday, April 26. Further, she chose the Council as her non-profit of the month for April, and as a result, a percentage of the store's sales that month will be donated to us.

**Rita** announced that the 2025 Budget Meeting will be held in April. If anyone has any ideas or suggestions for projects for next year, please complete a spending request and submit it to **Renee** by April 12.

**Claude** reported that a park patron said that most fishermen complain that the lake is fished out by the end of spring and asked if the Council would consider stocking the lake with bass and sunfish for the summer months. **Rita** said she also has heard that complaint. **Dylan** said the only species DNR stocks is trout, and the park has previously stocked bass and catfish using money contributed by the public to the

fish stocking fund. He does not know if other species are available but will look into it further. Members agreed this is a County responsibility.

**Rita** adjourned the meeting at 7:25 PM.

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**The next general membership meeting of the Piney Run Recreation and Conservation Council will be Thursday, May 16, 2024 at 6:30 PM.**