



Quad Cities Earth Coalition Minutes

Thursday, December 14, 2017
River's Edge
700 West River Drive
3:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Robbin Dunn (Dav Public Works), Brittany Ackerland (Dav Public Works), Kristen Bergen (BHP/SC/KMB), Ryan Merritt (Dav Parks & Rec), Becky Horton (Wapsi/Scott Co Cnsrvtn), Brittany Ackerland (Nahant), Joel Vanderbush (Niabi), Christina McDonough, (Scott Co Health), Sarah Gardner (Bi-State, RICWMA), Gena McCullough (KRIB/Bi-State), Michaela Miller (RISWCD)

PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES -- Distributed

TREASURER'S REPORT

- Balance Of Accounts As Of 12/31/17
 - Checking: \$3,618.26
 - Savings: \$5.02
 - Total: \$3,623.28
- Encumbrances/New Expenses: None
- Finance Committee Updates: None
- Other Updates/Discussion: The credit union where the Coalition accounts are held was subject to a phishing scam to gather email addresses. Ryan Merritt will look into it to determine if any action needs to be taken. Ryan to send a copy of the completed IRS e-postcard to Robbin for document storage on the website.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Executive Committee Election Nominations** – the following nominations were submitted:
 - Robbin Dunn, Chair
 - Kristen Bergen, Vice Chair
 - Ryan Merritt, Treasurer
 - Becky Horton, Membership Coordinator
 - Sarah J. Gardner, Secretary

Christina McDonough moved to accept the nominations. Kristen Bergen seconded. The motion carried.

- **Passport Program**
 - Ryan Merritt reported that the summer passport has been approved to be printed in the upcoming Davenport Parks & Recreation catalogue. He would like to see it printed on the back page, but this has not yet been discussed.
 - The goal of the program is to get kids and families to visit different locations throughout the Quad Cities area. Possible locations to be featured included Nahant Marsh, Fejervary

- Park, West Lake, and Niabi Zoo. Rodd Schick has suggested Moline Parks & Recreation would be interested in participating as well.
- Ryan will send out an electronic copy of the proposed passport/sites for the coalition to review.
 - A "letterboxing" component to the program was discussed. Locations would likely need a staff person to stamp the passports.
 - The possibility of purchasing inexpensive lanyards for transporting the passports were discussed.
 - T-shirts had previously been discussed as a possible incentive to encourage participants to fill their passports. The group discussed the potential waste implications of t-shirts and the possibility of raffle prizes as a better motivator. Possible prizes could include annual memberships to some of the participating organizations, including a family "fun bundle" membership for the QC Botanical Center/Niabi Zoo/Putnam Museum, or River Bandit tickets given as an in-kind donation.
 - The group also discussed an activity book or certificate of completion as an incentive for all who complete their passports. An electronic PDF of the activity book or certificate could be sent to participating locations, who could each print it out for participants as needed.
- **Americorps Volunteer** – further discussion of an Americorps volunteer is on the back burner as a result of current staff changes with AmeriCorps staffing.
 - **Liability Insurance** – Discussion was postponed to the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- None

INFORMATION SHARING

- **Niabi Zoo** would like to host an **Earth Day event** at the zoo this year as a complement to several other new education/outreach initiatives at the zoo. The QC Earth Coalition could potentially have a booth at the event.
 - Other ongoing programs at the zoo include **Zoo Tots**, a program focused on youth literacy, held every other Saturday from 9:30 a.m. – 10 a.m. at the zoo; **Animal Adventure classes** for kids ages 6-12 held every other Saturday from 10 a.m.-10:45 a.m. January 13-March 24; a **bat initiative** focused on local bat populations and aiming to raise awareness of the threatened and endangered status of local bat species; **Zoo2U** programs that take animals to area organizations for interactive educational events; and **Winter Zoo Camp** to take place Dec. 27-29. The zoo also hosts **Breakfast with the Animals** once a month, featuring a breakfast buffet and specific focus on a different animal each month. The next breakfast will be Jan. 20 and will feature Bactrian camels..
- A group focused on eradicating **invasive species and planting native species** is being formed in Davenport with an initial focus on the Duck Creek Trail. The first meeting will be held Jan. 31 at the Eastern Avenue branch of the Davenport Public Library and will meet either quarterly or every six weeks thereafter.
 - Get Out and Trail (GOAT), which is held the Saturday of Mother's Day weekend each year as a coordinated effort between the Parks and Recreation Departments in all the

Quad Cities, was suggested as a potentially good opportunity to advertise and recruit for the new group.

- The **Scott County Health Department** is getting close to submitting their **certification documentation** in February 2018.
- The Eagle View Group of the Sierra Club will be hosting Sarah Shoemaker to talk about **eagle migration and viewing** on Jan. 15, and will host a **Wapsi outing** on Jan. 20th.
- The **Wapsi River Nature Center** will be hosting an event focused on making gift bows from magazines and gift bags from calendar pages on Dec. 16 as its next **Crafting for Conservation** event, held quarterly throughout the year. It will also be hosting its annual **Winter Fun Day** on Feb. 3, featuring snowshoeing/skiing, a chili cookoff, and classes on wild edibles and fire starting. On Feb. 17, it will offer programming on the **Great Backyard Bird Count**.

NEXT BOARD MEETING – Thursday, February 8th, 3:00 PM, River's Edge

ADJOURN – Gena McCullough moved to adjourn and Kristen Bergen seconded. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.