

Friends of the Refuge Headwaters
Refuge Office, 102 Walnut St, Suite 205
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 22, 2023

Participating

Members: Meg Hurkman, Wendy Schneider, Sue O'Brien, JoAnn Smerage, Heidi Bryant, Bart Theiler

Refuge Staff: Mary Stefanski

Visitor: Sophie Schaumann, Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge

Meeting called to order at 4:20 pm by President Wendy Schneider

Minutes: Sue motioned to approve May 25, 2023 meeting minutes. Bart seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Reports

Treasurer's Report

- Checking Acct. Previous Total Balance = \$4,559.51
 - Deposits = \$500.00
 - Expenditures = \$1000.0
- Checking Acct. New Total Balance = \$4,059.51
- Money Market Previous Balance = \$64,766.93
 - Deposit = (Dividend) \$106.32Market New Balance = \$64,873.25
- Altra Regular Savings = \$5.00
- Grand Total = \$68,937.76
- Tree Planting account = \$3,658.00
- Pay Pal Account Balance = \$385.24

JoAnn motioned to approve treasurer's report and Bart seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

President's Report (Wendy)

1. Thank you to Kwik Trip for the food donation for June 7th Project COMPASS event was published in the Winona Post. The cake in honor of Bev was made by HyVee and looked (and tasted) great.
2. 80 membership renewal letters were sent out a couple of weeks ago, with the additional memberships turned in at this meeting there have been 12 renewals received.

Refuge Manager's Report (Mary Stefanski)

- Verchota dock was lifted back on the spuds by the truck crane from Winona Welding. The cost was just over \$2,300 and included adding four-foot extensions on each of the spuds.
- Three person Youth Conservation Corps crew will started June 20.
- The Winona District hosted the Refuge-wide meeting yesterday and today (June 21/22). There were 52 people in attendance.
- Following the last Project COMPASS fishing event, volunteer Matt Merchlewitz volunteered to restring and completely refurbish all of the fishing poles. He has completed that task and the poles all look amazing!
- The Friends "litter aware" signs have been put up on either end of the Prairie Island Dike.

- Fanatics (WinCraft) will be picking up trash on the Prairie Island Dike on Tuesday, June 27. The Friends will do a cleanup in the fall (October). This rotation works well and will likely continue into the future as Fanatics continues to promote “Global Impact Day.”

Completed Business

- June 7, Project COMPASS fishing Event and Picnic at the Kiwanis Shelter at the Spillway Landing was a success. Good food and people caught some fish.
- Dan Jackson gave his Damsels and Dragons presentation last night (June 21) at the Winona History Center. About 35 people were in attendance. We have a lot of left over cookies and \$45 was collected in the donation jar. There was discussion about payment to Dan for the presentation since he did not request payment. Bart made a motion to give him a Friends t-shirt and a \$50 gas card. Sue seconded the motion. Mary will use the donation cash to pick up a gas card and Wendy will write a thank-you note to Dan. Everything will be sent to him in the mail.
- Steve Norman picked up the new t-shirts. The total cost for 30 shirts was \$263.75. Shirts will be distributed to members at events and meetings.

Continuing Business/Fun Events

- The final Project COMPASS fishing event for the year will be held on Wednesday, September 20 at the Huff Street dock.
- Heidi mentioned that the River Arts Alliance Member Exhibit and Showcase will be at the Blue Heron Coffeehouse through July 16, go check it out!
- Next meeting: Thursday, July 27, 2023

Meeting Adjourned at 5:00 p.m.