

Spring Creek Coalition Board Meeting Minutes
June 8, 2017

The meeting of the Board of Directors of Spring Creek Coalition ("SCC") was held on June 8, 2017 at the Schusterman Library in Tulsa. The following board members were present: Beth Rooney, Donna and Charles Drury, George Kamp, Jessica Spencer, David Martinez, Katie Easter and Jennifer Owen. Guest Martin Rooney was also present. The meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m.

1. Volunteer to take minutes; Katie Easter volunteered to take minutes. Beth Rooney suggested that there should be a schedule made with future volunteers for the following board meetings since we do not currently have a secretary.
2. Goal #1: Build a coalition- Preparation of June newsletter; newsletters were folded, stamped and prepared for mailing
3. Introduction and approval of Katie Easter, NSU biology student, as a new board member; Katie Easter was unanimously approved by members of the board. She takes the place of Becky Bell who is taking a leave of absence due to illness.
4. Housekeeping
 - A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve May's minutes as written.
 - Treasurer Beth Rooney reported a balance as of \$5,502 as of June 2, 2017. Changes included income donation of \$200 from David Grigsby in addition to \$32 from totes and t-shirt sales
5. Goal #4: Science-David Martinez
 - Kip Heth- how to honor; David Martez has been in touch with Ollie and Rachel (Kip's wife and daughter) He said they were going to spread his ashes in Illinois in July. Potential ideas of recognition were discussed. Ideas such as an honorary plaque, inviting Ollie and Rachel for an outing and possibly presenting the plaque at this outing were suggested. Jennifer suggested that a 5X7 picture with a nice frame could be an appropriate way to honor Kip's memory and his love for Spring Creek. Jennifer volunteered to spearhead the production of the picture and frame.
 - Status of Intern project; Katie Easter gave the board an update on her current research being conducted on the creek. She will be sampling upstream at Jessica's property and downstream at Jennifer Owen's property. Since the creek has no data regarding gastropods (snails and slugs) her research will provide a base to draw from in years to come. She will have results calculated and available to the members by the end of summer.
6. Goal #7: Protect the creek's flows- GRDA lunch meeting recap; George, Jennifer Owen and Beth Rooney met with GRDA over lunch. Beth expressed that it was beneficial to have several people present from Spring Creek Coalition. Those who attended the meeting reported that it was an overall success and we should strive to maintain contact with GRDA in the future. GRDA will be partnering with NSU in furthering research on the Illinois River as well as surrounding bodies of water by setting up a lab on campus.
7. Goal #5: 12/2015 Members Poll Review- George; George passed out copies of his summary of the survey to the board members.

- Suggestions for the board from the survey included three responses for flooding problems, two responses for trash pickup, two responses for plant and bird education, and other information including one written response for each of the following- information for realtors, school contacts, conservation district contacts, younger board members, meet at Peggs, Go Fund Me effort, and local public access.
 - Suggestions for the board about concerns about the creek include six responses concerning land use, five responses about pollution, five responses about trash, and four responses concerning water withdrawal.
 - Suggestions for the board for potential topics to learn about included three responses for erosion, three responses about wildlife education, two responses for stream biology, and once response each for GRDA, board function, fund raising, use of You Tube for education, and grant possibilities.
 - The member survey was based on 27 written responses, approximately 10% from mailing. George reported that individuals who completed the survey showed an overall appreciation for the board members and the coalition in general.
8. Goal #6: Education/ Outings
- Isopod recap; Isopod event was a success. There were eleven people present and the audience thought the talk was informative and that Alex did a great job reaching out to the children and adults alike. Beth Rooney expressed interest in a potential educational snake outing with Alex Hess.
 - Reach out to watershed school, start with Peggs; Jennifer has volunteered to reach out to the school before the summer session ends in order to plan for fall.
9. Goal #3 GIS
- Further discussion – Board members expressed a continued interest in becoming familiar with how GIS can benefit Spring Creek. David raised awareness to the group that we should view GIS as a tool. Once objectives and potential projects are identified we can move forward with a plan. The group discussed common goals that could be accomplished with GIS such as keeping the creek as pristine as possible, making educational maps, using it as a tool to get kids out to the creek, land use from member survey, pulling in land cover layers and historical data sets, identifying healthy areas after flooding, discerning between manmade and natural occurrences, and identifying chicken houses/CAFOS. A report regarding GIS will be presented by David Martinez at the board meeting in August. Other ideas proposed were fire and timber data sets, possibly looking to the Nickel Preserve to gather more information on prescribed burns.
10. Goal #1: Build a Coalition
- Community outings: Three Springs Farm, Saturday, October 21; all plans are going well
 - Community events: Trash Cleanups; the group discussed how many cleanups we should have and when. The group decided we might have two. Possible cleanup sites include- Coopers Bridge and maybe one more in need. A decision should be made before the September newsletter.
 - Cave Springs Trash barrel:

- lost in 5/20 flood; Charles volunteered to replace the barrel with a plastic one.
 - Summer help update: Jessica reported that Spencer Cabinets is not hiring high school help this summer. Jennifer said she believes she can handle the trash barrel without help.
 - Increase newsletter reach by 10% (25 additional newsletters): ideas on how;
 - There was a motion made and approved to increase newsletter reach by 10%, (vs. trying to increase membership). However, there was a strong opposition to increase the newsletter outreach by some. Further discussion will be needed.
 - Ideas on how: Beth Rooney asked Charles and Donna if they would be willing to use the Mayes County plat map to identify land owners that are not part of the coalition. If this is successful, we will obtain plat maps for Cherokee and Delaware Counties to do the same.
11. Other: Jennifer told us about an Oklahoma Water Conservation group we could join. The board will need more information to decide if we would like to be a part of this group.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm

Next Meeting: Thursday, August 10, 6:15-7:45 PM, Schusterman Library (2nd Thurs of each month)
Take July off!