

Spring Creek Coalition Board Meeting Minutes
March 08, 2018

Mission: to unite as citizens and actively engage in the preservation of the Spring Creek Watershed.

The meeting of the Board of Directors of Spring Creek Coalition (“SCC”) was held on March 08, 2018 at the Schusterman Library in Tulsa. The following board members were present: Beth Rooney, Donna and Charles Drury, Rick Brattin, Jennifer Owen, and Jessica Spencer. Guests Martin Rooney and T.J. Grimes were also present. The meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m.

1. Goal 1: Continue to Build a Coalition – Newsletters were prepared for mailing. We included an insert asking for membership new or renew.
2. Housekeeping
 - A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve February’s minutes as written.
 - Treasurer Beth Rooney reported a balance as of \$5,120 as of March 3. There was no significant new income or expense from last month.
3. Annual meeting Good/Improve review. Since Beth missed February’s meeting, she wanted to make sure she addressed Annual Meeting items that needed improvement; she noted that it was reported that the speaker volume was too low and that there were inaccuracies reporting dues. We will try to improve these areas next year.
4. Goal #7: Water Extraction, protect the creek’s flow: Jessica gave a report on the Peggs Water Company (PWC) from their annual meeting which she attended. PWC reported a loss but most of that was due to depreciation write-off. They gained 21 new customers, lost 14 (disconnected), and added 260 new feet of pipe. DEQ now requires that PWC test for E. coli every two weeks. They have been testing since January and have not found any E. coli.
5. Goal 1: Continue to Build a Coalition – Spring Creek outing to Pensacola Dam – Jessica reported that she has some sign-ups but has room for more. There are two tour guides scheduled who each can take up to 15 people. The outing is being advertised in the newsletter so she may get some more participants.
6. Goal 4: Science – Beth reported that she still has not heard anything from the IRS on our application for formal 501(c)3 status. She applied in January and they indicate they may take up to 90 days to reply. One reason we would like this official status is so that we can obtain inexpensive GIS software.
7. Set Goals for 2018: the board reviewed the goals sent out by Beth earlier with the suggestion that we keep our traditional goals with the addition of adding Lowery to our school outreach effort. Add additional goals only if someone is willing to take the lead on that goal.
 - The goals list was reviewed with minor updates.
 - Jennifer added a goal “to increase the involvement of watershed resident landowners in the coalition.”
 - Rick Brattin moved and Charles Drury seconded a motion that the list shown be approved as our 2018 Goals. Motion carried.
 - After Beth and Jennifer finalize the wording on the new goal, the list will be sent out to all.

8. Discussion of Finances/Priorities – Jennifer led a discussion about her concerns that we are putting a fair amount of emphasis and time on accumulating money rather than on more important priorities. She said that when the coalition was formed they intentionally tried to develop a program that did not depend on money. Several interesting points were made during this discussion; some of the ideas have been incorporated into the 2018 goals:
- Members noted that the things we do to bring in money such as the auction and the newsletter insert do not take that much time and are once a year efforts.
 - Things we sell such as T-shirts, totes, and calendars are more for promoting the coalition than for raising money.
 - Should some of these be given away free? Should membership be free? It was mentioned that we do need to bring in enough to cover costs (printing the newsletter, renting Peggs Community Center). Requiring a membership fee gives an organization a way to know who has voting rights.
 - Some of our sales are done as a wash (calendars), strictly to offset the cost of the item. Some items such as T-shirts give people a sense of paying for something they enjoy having. T-shirts and mugs have been donated by Neal Russell. The last batch of T-shirts and totes were paid for from the SCC account.
 - Often times when people pay their dues then they feel like “There, I’ve done my part.” They buy out of their community service. In reality what we need is for people to volunteer and donate their services rather than their money. Members depend too much on the board to get things done.
 - Rick: Perhaps we could put an insert in a future newsletter asking for help, people’s talents, similar to how we just put in an insert asking for dues.
 - Jessica noted that we have asked for a school liaison (two newsletters and annual meeting) with no results. Beth feels that personal contact gets better results. An insert still might be worth a try.
 - Jennifer said that the more specific we can be about the kind of help needed, the better. She gave an example of a time SCC asked for jars for water testing, and they were inundated with jars.
 - Jennifer brought up the point that the board should not get too dependent on any one board member. For example, we should try to find members to take on tasks such as the newsletter and the website.
 - There are many people in the watershed that we could call on, accountants, CPAs, people with businesses, staff and resources, and other skills. Jessica reaffirmed the idea that if these people would choose to volunteer, their time and help would be more valuable than their money.
 - Jennifer stated that SCC has grown positively and exponentially. But we should consider getting more watershed resident landowners on the board. Rick asked if that would require a change to the by-laws. Beth noted that the by-laws were re-written about 10 years ago and made flexible. The bylaws require 3-11 board members.
9. Other

- George Kamp – George reports that flying is still not advised (he and Marty are in Arizona). He continues to recover from his recent surgery, gaining strength and mileage in his daily walks. He expects to be able to re-join us in April.
- Emily Hyde; Guthrie Green Earth Day, Sunday, April 22. Beth recently talked to our former student board member Emily Hyde. She will graduate this May from OSU with a major in Environmental Science with an emphasis in Water Resources. She will start graduate work next year in either Oregon or Minnesota. Emily credits SCC as the turning point for her in deciding her major. Emily has offered to man a booth for SCC at Earth Day April 22. She is also interested in being involved with anything SCC might do this summer.
- Film that includes footage of Spring Creek; Brandon Brown of ODWC reports that the film that includes footage of Spring Creek and other local creeks is set to debut in April. He sent us a link to the film's trailer which we viewed. The film is based on the book Serengeti Rules. The local footage recreates scenes of the research done by Dr. Mary Powers on stonerollers and smallmouth bass.
- Ed Brocksmith, one of the founders of STIR (Save the Illinois River) praised SCC after our annual meeting. He said "I'm amazed at how much you all do each year."
- We originally planned to do a "Meet Your Neighbors" article on Rudy and Donna Cisper for this month's newsletter. They declined due to health issues.

Beth thanked T.J. for coming and asked if he enjoyed the meeting. He said "It was interesting," and everyone laughed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm. Respectfully submitted by Beth Rooney, President

Next Meeting: Thursday, April 12, 6:15-7:45 PM, Schusterman Library (2nd Thurs of each month)