

What: Prairie Smoke meeting minutes
When: 6:00 p.m. Wednesday the 6th of January 2016
Where: Barb and Walt Nigon's residence
8932 50th Street S.E., Eyota, MN
Why: Discussion and decisions

Present:

Barb Nigon	President
Chuck Kernler	Vice President
Susan Powers	Secretary
Dawn Littleton	Board Member
Ruthann Yaeger	Board Member

Absent:

Dave Edwards	Treasurer
Joel Dunnette	Board Member
Sharon Kaufman	Web master

Barb motioned to open the meeting at 7:28 p.m.

Treasurer's Report

Per an e-mail dated 6 January 2016, treasurer Dave Edwards reported there is \$11,008 in Prairie Smoke's checking account. Ruthann will ask Dave to send a more detailed breakdown.

It was suggested that the monies ear-marked for grants be itemized separately to help ensure that money remains available when needed.

Old Business

Membership

Barb reported that Dave suggested a memo be mailed or e-mailed to all current and past members of Prairie Smoke in order to potentially re-activate expired memberships or to gain some donations. Further discussion is deferred until a future board meeting.

Website

Per an e-mail sent prior to the meeting, Sharon reported that the *PrairieSmokeMN.org* website is up and running. She has activated a PayPal link to accept payment for membership and donations.

Dawn suggested Sharon work with Dave so that the linked PayPal account is specific to Prairie Smoke and not that of any individual member. Chuck was selected to follow through with Dave and Sharon to create said Paypal account.

Sharon would like to add PDF versions of Joel's ID cards.

Members are encouraged to input their suggestions for further information offered via the website.

Presentations of interest to members

The schedules of presentations at the Rochester Public Library and Assisi Heights were reviewed.

Dawn offered to contact Assisi Heights to ask if they could give a talk of interest at the Rochester Public Library.

Equipment

Barb reported that \$200 was paid to store Prairie Smoke equipment. The covered shed helps secure and preserve the equipment, especially over the winter.

Walt reported some of the equipment needs repair or replacement.

- The water pump needs work
- Several of the backpacks have cracks and leaks
- Parsnip predators cannot be located

Walt estimates a cost of \$100 to \$300 for a new pump. Ruthann motioned Walt be authorized to buy a new pump and report cost. Chuck 2nded the motion. Susan motioned the predators be replaced and kept with Prairie Smokes equipment for inventory for check-out.

Annual Meeting

Barb has checked available dates for holding the annual meeting at the Chatfield Library. We are planning on the 21st of February starting at 1:00 p.m. for a couple of hours.

Lorissa Mottl will be asked to present on SNA. As per past years, the meeting will offer a soup buffet.

Board Members

The board is looking for new board members, as two or more have left the board over the past couple of years. It was suggested that current board members contact others who might be open to serve on the board and invite them to the upcoming annual meeting.

New Business:

Donations for B & B Bowl and Restaurant

Barb asked if Prairie Smoke might want to support the loss incurred by the B & B Bowl and Restaurant in Preston, MN which was destroyed by fire in early January. The restaurant was frequented by Prairie Smoke members and supporters.

Discussion ensued. Chuck and Ruthann motioned and seconded to present an opportunity to support the cause via *PrairieSmokeMN.org* website. Barb will communicate the request to webmaster Sharon.

MN Land Trusts

A discussion is requested to help understand a potential relationship between Prairie Smoke and MN land trusts. Further discussion is delayed until a future meeting.

DNR funds and Quarry Hill

Per Dawn's e-mail sent just prior to this board meeting, there are funds in the DNR budget that will be shifted to go out-of-state if left unused. The hope is for Quarry Hill to receive some of those funds.

Dawn and Ruthann are working with Mike Nigbur on an application to help with Quarry Hill restoration. Improvement efforts include re-seeding and buckthorn removal. The application is due the 29th of January.

Dawn volunteered to write a grant with the help of Ruthann and Joel to help influence the City to consider Quarry Hill as a recipient of funding.

It was suggested to request an amount in proportion to the amount currently set aside for Indian Heights.

Meeting wrap-up

Barb moved and Ruthann 2nded to adjourn the meeting at 8:59 p.m.

The next meeting is being planned for Sunday the 21st of February at the Chatfield Public Library.