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HESS-HATHAWAY PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, April 13, 2023, 6:00pm
Location: Waterford Recreation Center

- I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER:** 6:02 pm, J. Himmelspach,
- II. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS, STAFF AND GUESTS**
Members present: K. Callahan, J. Matsura, M. Carlock, K. Yarnall, L. Hardacre, J. Barker, and J. Himmelspach
Others present: T. Heglin
Members Excused: A. Frasca and N. Ristich
Guests: R. Matsura and K. Hiltner
- III. REVIEW AND APPROVE AGENDA:** Motion to approve by J. Matsura, second by K. Callahan. Motion approved.
- IV. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES:** Motion to approve December minutes by L. Hardacre, second J. Matsura. Motion approved. Motion to approve February minutes by K. Callahan, second J. Matsura. Motion approved. Motion to approve March minutes by L. Hardacre, second J. Matsura. Motion approved.
- V. CORRESPONDENCE:** N/A
- VI. REPORTS**
 - a. Director Report: Alison Swanson – N/A**
 - b. Parks and Recreation Programs: Tori Heglin**
 - i. Mother-Son “Take Flight” Dance took place on Saturday, March 25, 6-8pm at the Recreation Center with 298 registrants. The theme for this dance was “Take Flight” and there was a collaboration with Mad Science to offer a STEM challenge, activities and craft focusing on the “four forces of flight” station. Oakside Prep Academy Eagles and Waterford Youth Assistance were sponsors. Net revenue not including staff expense: \$3,637. Many wonderful volunteers assisted (3 program staff and 2 custodial staff).
 - ii. Summer camp staff hiring-in is ongoing. We have offered six individuals positions and they have all accepted. This number gives us a full staff.
 - iii. Earth Day is scheduled at Drayton Plains Nature Center on Saturday, April 22nd with a 10:30am and 1:30pm hike and crafts in between. Invasive Species Pull is scheduled for Friday, May 19 from 9am until 12 noon at the Nature Center.
 - iv. Sheep Shearing and Pancake Breakfast fundraiser is scheduled for Saturday, April 29, 9-11am. Genisys Credit Union is sponsoring again.
 - c. Caretaker Report:** We have a second applicant for the caretaker position and we will be interviewing again before a decision is made. Motion by J. Himmelspach that a final selection on the caretaker position be resolved by the next Hess-Hathaway meeting which is scheduled for Thursday, May 11. Motion passed unanimously: J. Himmelspach, K. Callahan, J. Matsura, M. Carlock, L. Hardacre, and J. Barker. Note: K. Yarnall had to leave previous to this vote due to another meeting.

With us there are no boundaries

d. Animal Report: Vickie Morgan/Tori Heglin:

- i. **Vickie Morgan Update:** Goats and sheep-Last month all were vaccinated for rabies. Shortly afterwards Olive the sheep and to a lesser degree Lily the goat became ill. Dr Pytel prescribed penicillin and thiamine shots for the two of them and all were wormed. Olive has bounced back and Lily is improving. Champagne and the steers-All are well and loving their new grazing land and the weather. Rabbits-The 3 boys are happy. We are looking to add a fourth one by sheep-shearing time. Ducks and geese-All good. Lots of boy pekings and a nice mixture of geese. Chickens-Doing well. Turkeys-Quite a frenzy in the turkey coop. Last year's chicks are grown and ready to mate. The boys are out of control and the girls looking for safe places to lay eggs.
- ii. **Pig:** T. Heglin mentioned other educational farms such as Bowers School Farm in Bloomfield Hills are phasing out pigs. They can be more problematic than other animals. In 2017, we had a pig bite a child, and worked really hard to re-home the animal. Rescues near and far did not want to take on the animal for the same reasons we were trying to find another home for the animal. When we planned for the fencing project, we had discussed that we would not be getting another pig after Wilbur. The pig pen area is now not able to be easily observed by patrons at a close distance. M. Carlock suggested that we "ice" this issue for now.
- iii. **Equine:** Largest Donkey Rescue agency in the United States, Peaceful Valley in Texas has satellites in Ohio and Indiana. Matt Bauserman with Charlie's Forever Farm in Swartz Creek works with them. Their policy is to adopt two donkeys at a time for companionship purposes. Originally he said he would work to secure a single donkey, because we do have an equine. However, he has decided against this. One reason for this decision is Champagne's age. She will probably not be around another 20 years. Securing a mini-horse and donkey combination had good support. K. Hiltner indicated the contact she has for mini-horses usually charges from \$1,000 to \$1,500.
- iv. **Chicken Coop:** V. Morgan has shared that our chicken coop housing is approximately 250 square feet. Standards indicate that this accommodates approximately 40-50 chickens. We have 40 chickens. T. Heglin indicated we do not have the room at this point for the guineas we had hoped to acquire with M. Carlock's assistance. She also shared that Dr. Hammel, USDA communicated in March that the "bird rule will take effect the third week in August and our birds will be subject to inspection at that time". He said that he might find out in July what the new requirements will be. One concern would be keeping our domesticated flock away from wild fowl. An option for us would be choosing to not be licensed.
- v. **Turkeys:** We have too many turkeys and it has been hard to find homes for them. L. Hardacre mentioned that she may have a contact that could help us.
- e. **Community Garden: Kelie Callahan:** Charlie Bartels, Eagle Scout Project is scheduled to present at the May meeting (the dimensions of the compost stalls are 54 inches wide x 3 stalls, 3-4 feet tall, so the gator can back in and dump compost).
- f. **51st District Court Garden: Linda Hardacre:** Garden will be planted after Memorial Day.

VII. Old Business

Hess Fencing and Pond Improvement Project: TSP Environmental is scheduled to begin project around Thursday, April 13. Hess Trust Grant funds were received in the amount of \$154,655 and American Rescue Plan Act funds were received in the amount of \$155,187 for a total of \$309,842. There will be a meeting the week of April 17 to coordinate fence removal and installation with the fencing contractor.

VIII. New Business:

- a. **Recommendation for 3-Year Term Renewal for John Barker:** Motion to approve by M. Carlock, second by L. Hardacre. Motion approved.

b. Recommendation for 3-Year Term Renewal for Nick Ristich: Motion to approve J. Matsura, second by K. Callahan. Motion approved.

c. Nominations for Committee Designations

i. President: John Himmelspach

ii. Vice-President: Art Frasca

iii. Secretary: Kellianne Yarnall and Kelie Callahan

IX. Round Table Discussion/Open Discussion: N/A

X. Public Comments: Kathy Hiltner, guest/Hess Farm Staff wanted to emphasize the importance of mechanical skills for the position of caretaker, and that the person filling the position be willing to assist on weekends when staff are available for harvesting, etc. She expressed that E. Herdman had been available as needed and was able to keep the harvest efforts moving forward.

XI. ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn by K. Callahan, second by L. Hardacre. Adjourned at 7:12pm.

NEXT Meeting 2023

Thu, May 11, 6pm, Hess-Hathaway Building, 825 South Williams Lake Road