**Friends of Cheyenne Mountain State Park Board Meeting**

February 9, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Pat Cooper at 5:00 pm.

Members present were: Pat Cooper, Steve Johnson, Susan Simmons, Glen and Barb Scott, Erika Dragoo, Lori O’Hare, Ralph Cadwallader, and Mitch Martin

Glen brought up #2 on the best practices discussed at the retreat. He wanted to make sure that subjects that concerned everyone on the board would have time to be discussed. The board agreed.

It was moved and seconded that the minutes from the retreat be approved, with the caveat Glen brought up on #2. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

**Reports**

**Treasurer’s Report:**  Total assets are: $21,800.04. The Friends accounts will soon be with First Bank. There are some issues with Quick Books, and Barb will get in touch with Pam Scott for help.

**Membership:** There are 57 life and current members. 25 life time and 32 Friends paid thru 2015. 144 people have been members since the inception of Friends.

**Communications:** Erika said her yearly subscription for SmileBox has gone up to 49.95. She uses the application to put out the newsletters, and would like Friends to help out on the cost. There was discussion on paying for SmileBox. She said she would contact the company and see if she could get the price down. Glen said he would look into Google Apps for non-profits and see if there was something free Erika could use. The next newsletter will be out this spring.

**Volunteer update:** Pat is instructing the secretary and treasurer how to archive minutes and treasury information onto our website. Once all the information is uploaded, it will only be visible only to board members.

Ralph has put out the dates for fire mitigation.

Raptor monitoring is in full swing.

**Park Manager Update**: Mitch said both revenue and visitations are up. The archery range is booming. Horses are now allowed on designated trails. There was an issue with a rider getting on the wrong trail, but better signage should alleviate the problem.

The position that Darcy vacated will be posted. It hopefully will be filled quickly.

There is a new health care mandate that could impact the number of seasonal employees the park can hire. Mitch is hoping a waiver may be possible. If not, the numbers could be cut in half.

VOC will be working May 30 and 31 on the Dixon Trail. Mitch was wondering if Glen might get help from Fort Carson to place tools. Hopefully the weather will be better than it has been in the fall.

Rocky Mountain Field Institute will work on the trail system at the top of Cheyenne Mountain again this summer for two weeks.

**Old Business:** All the money from the Broadmoor Garden Club has been spent. There is still some money for marketing in the NEEF II grant that needs to be spent. Ann Brown saw the completed second part of the mural project and was impressed. There is still money to be spent on the last phase.

**New Business: T**here is a meeting of Super Friends on February 18. Mitch was going to get Pat a name of a contact so Pat could find out more about the organization.

We are no longer collecting Frito Lay Bags. The bags would have to weigh a total of 20 pounds. It would take too long to collect that many bags.

Steve is waiting on an insurance quote from USAA. Pat said we could get special event insurance like we did last year. We will need to balance cost with risk. Mitch suggested talking with other state wide Friends and see what they do about insurance.

In the spring, Darcy would like to have an art show and sale, with established artists. Before the show, she envisions a reception where board members could meet the artists. She asked that we approve $50-$75 for a reception. Glen made the motion that we approve up to $100 for the reception. Ralph seconded. The motion passed. If we receive the NEEF III grant, there will be funds to mount the art. We need to find out what Pueblo does for their art events.

In 2016 we will probably combine The Fourth on the 3rd and Ranch Day.

New grant opportunities: USAA foundation, Glen looked at the grant on line and feels we meet all the requirements, Lori suggested Sky Sox and Indy Gives was mentioned.

The budget was gone over and some changes made to the draft. We will receive an amended draft via e-mail. It was suggested that instead of the entire board looking over the budget, it should be done by committee and then brought to the board.

This year, in order for a volunteer to attend the banquet, they had to have at least twenty hours. The board agreed that was a good number and the banquet had the appropriate numbers of guests.

There will also be a photo festival later in the summer.

Our next meeting will be at 5:00 on Monday, March 9. The meeting was adjourned at 7:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Simmons, Secretary