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

March 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, Jack Busher and Mitch Martin

The minutes as sent by e-mail were approved by unanimous vote.

**Reports**

**Treasurer’s Report:**  Total assets are: $22,000.15. $360.40 from the Dinosaur race can be used towards anything connected with the Dixon Trail.

**Membership:** 21 renewal notices sent Feb 18 to 21 for expired 2014 & 1st quarter 2015 As of Mar 5th received 6 renewals and 1 new membership. Current membership: 23. Next: Send letters to life members and past members asking for support and membership renewal.

**Communications:** Glen looked into Google Apps for non-profits and couldn’t find an application Erika could use instead of Smilebox. Erika is working on the next newsletter. If we have additions, we should give them to her.

Pat checked what the most popular posts had been on Facebook this past year. The one where the board was sitting in front of the fireplace at Julie Penrose’s home had 542 hits. A picture of snow at the park had 350 hits and another photo of the board at Julie Penrose’s house had 274.

Past minutes and financial statements can now be viewed by board members on the website. The trail and fire mitigation schedules are also there, as is information about the Cheyenne Mountain Run (October 24th).

**Volunteer update:** The memorial ceremony was very tastefully done by Janeen. We are hoping to make it a yearly event, with family members invited.

Fire mitigation will probably be done along Pine Oaks road in the near future.

There is a new yogurt store (Swirly Cow) in the Safeway shopping center. Jack is working on having them donate tips to Friends.

The Cheyenne Mountain Run committee met this morning. They already have one sponsor for $250. We will also receive $1000 from NEEF. This year, the race will be a real race, with John O’Neal timing for us for free. There will be an 8 mile and 5K run. Tim Bergsten has been hired to help us with advertising, logo and social media.

**Park Manager Update**: Mitch said it has been a quiet month. Reservations will open up April 3rd for the campground. April 1 he will interview for the ranger position. Temporary rangers will also be interviewed. We will have two interns this year. The concern about providing insurance for all staff, no matter how few hours a week they work, has been mitigated. The state will pay applicable fines, which will allow the park to revert back to status quo on hiring.

Mitch is planning on getting signage which will instruct equestrians on trail usage. At some point, citations might be necessary. Darcy is an equestrian. Mitch is hoping, that by Darcy going to equestrians’ meetings, they will agree to help with the up keep of trails. They might also be asked to help move tools for the VOC.

**Old Business:** Mitch said the donor pavilion is still in consideration. Sam is working on the idea of pavers instead of cement, to cut costs. It would be helpful for the State to see a value on investment, so Friends should come up with positive reasons to have the pavilion.

We should ask Erika to give the Frito bags to the school that is collecting them.

Steve gave us figures on the Director and Officer (D&O) insurance. The quote from USAA was the best, $511 for $500,000, and $656 for 1 million. Glen said 90% of law suits are brought by disgruntled employees or for malfeasance.

He feels we don’t need the insurance. When we sponsor special events, we purchase insurance. Pat had contacted Vickie Leigh to see if the state could give us information on insurance quotes. Would statewide Friends cover us? Steve wondered if we should check into USAA’s cost to insure us for special events. The price for insuring the Dinosaur Race was so inexpensive, we probably won’t find a better price.

Pikes Peak Outdoors is a new organization hoping to get companies and likeminded outdoors enthusiasts together. There are four projects they are working on: 1. a water festival 2. Outdoors education (Beidelman?) 3. An outdoors guide (all events onto one site) 4. Host a collaborative outdoors event. They meet quarterly. June 2 at noon is the next meeting, at DIV headquarters.

The Budget was discussed. Some changes were made; Jack proposed we accept the updated budget. Steve seconded. The budget passed unanimously.

Pat attended a meeting of Super Friends. It has existed since 2009. It is managed by Parks and Rec. They might have information about insurance. They are sponsoring crew leadership classes. The park has one allocated spot. 20 spots are allocated to Friends. If they are not used, the positions will be opened to the public. Super Friends might advertise our events.

**New Business:**

USAA has a community grant program, and Glen is in the process of filling out the paperwork to apply for the grant. He feels it could be a great way to get free passes for military to come to our events.

NEEF III is now ours, thanks to Glen. There will be money allocated to mount art on the wall for Art in the Park. Paul Drummond will display his photographs starting May 1st and 15% of the proceeds will go to Friends. The photographer and Friends will meet at a gallery opening reception the evening before, April 30th.

Glen submitted the annual reports for Colorado and the Federal 990N.

Earth Day celebration at the park will be April 26.

Volunteer Open House will be April 25th, 12-3:00.

The winners of Colorado Day Photo contest will be announced on August 1st.

Ranch Day and the 4th on the 3rd will be combined and potentially called Heritage Day.

Lori needs paperwork for IndyGives to be submitted by April 20th. Glen said he would help with the grant requests. Legwork needs to be done in advance.

Willie Kalaskie asked to be on our Friends board. Pat suggested he be a part of the Cheyenne Mountain race committee first.

Jack brought up the issue of muddy trails and hikers/ horses. He had sent us a photo of a potential sign to use on trails. Mitch suggested they talk about it with the staff.

Our next meeting will be at 5:00 on Monday, April 13. The meeting was adjourned at 7:08.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Simmons, Secretary