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

March 21, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Pat Cooper at 4:00 pm.

Members present were: Pat Cooper, Lori O’Hare, Susan Simmons, Abbie Burke, Ralph Cadwallader, Jack Busher, Glen and Barb Scott, Jean Danforth, Warren Pierce and Mitch Martin.

**Reports**

**Secretary:** Jack moved to approve the minutes, Ralph seconded.The February minutes as sent by e-mail were approved by unanimous vote.

**Treasurer’s Report** Total assets are: $36,264.37. There are 0 liabilities. There was a $300 donation made in memory of Judith Marie Stevens, wife of Henry Steven. He suggested using it for trail work on Boulder Run and Blackmer.

There was a dispute with a customer using PayPal. The customer claims that the transaction was not his. Contact was made with PayPal, explaining that the customer walked into the park and purchased the art work. Since there was no way to prove he had the art, or that he was in the visitor center to purchase the merchandise, PayPal refunded his money. The treasurer’s February Profit/Loss report will need to be corrected. The amount of $159.91 will be removed. The March report will show -$165 .00 under Art Sales (the disputed amount and PayPal expense fee of $20). Mitch suggested that a written receipt be developed that is signed by the customer to eliminate future problems. This will be investigated by Jeanette.

The email that Barb sent out alleging fraudulent charges on a credit card was discussed. Darcy located the spreadsheet that had the charges made on that card and what they were for. The card had not been misused.

**Membership:** Ralph tried getting people to pay their yearly Friends dues by sending out letters by mail. He had a great response. We now have 23 Life members, and 38 annual members. That’s up 8 from last month, 7 renewals and 1 new member. At this point, he will not change our membership dues to a calendar year. Ralph also requested 100 copies of the Spring newsletter so that he can work on his next membership drive.

**Communications:**  Jean has the newsletter almost ready to go. She used Word instead of MailChimp. Word does not allow feedback, so MailChimp would be preferable. Lori volunteered to help Jean with MailChimp.

**Social Media:**  Abbie said there are 153 Twitter followers and 338 Likes on Facebook. We just joined Instagram. The benefit of Instagram is that it is just pictures (please email park photos to Abbie). It will reach a younger audience.

**Volunteer update:** Jack said the TOSC crew leader training will be April 22-24 in Bear Creek Park. He had some people in mind to attend. Mitch suggested Jason. The deadline to fill spaces is coming up quickly.

**Park Manager Update:** The park is picking up speed. Campers are already using the park. The temporary positions have been filled. The archery range will have ADA compliant sidewalks on the static range when the project is completed.

The entry road has dried out. There will be more drainage tubes and the problem part of the road will be concrete instead of asphalt. The other roadways with dips will also be repaired. Glen asked Mitch about the Newman Spring camera request that is on the Park’s need list. The camera system that is being considered uses a satellite surveillance and the possibility of adding other camera locations, like the archery range, was discussed.

**Grant applications:** Glen and Warren attended an El Pomar grant training session. They would like our input and ideas for grants. They will try to get our USAA grant expanded. There has been no reply from REI. Two new items on the grant request list were discussed. The Junior Ranger books and a new program to purchase park passes for school programs. Both will be considered when applying for grants.

**Old Business:** No news on the Broadmoor Garden club grant, decision is expected this month.

Glen emailed the preliminary Reoccurring Actions project list for our review. From this project, Glen will prepare a calendar for all the required timelines on what we do for Friends. There was a discussion on where to store this calendar. Pat commented that we store our minutes and financial statements on our website.

The Cheyenne Mountain Run committee met last week, where Pat brought up the issue of using CMR proceeds on projects in the park not related to the Dixon Trail. The Run committee didn’t think that would be a good idea, since many runners like that they are helping to build the trail to the top. Mitch commented that he already had money set aside for Rocky Mountain Field Institute to work for 3 weeks on the trail this year. Next year, with another 3 weeks work from RMFI, the trail should be completed. Since he felt he had the expenses for the Dixon Trail covered, he wasn’t sure tying up the race proceeds was the thing to do. However, if we continue to sell the race by saying until “trail is completed and open to the public”, we could use proceeds in partnership with Colorado Springs, to help pay for the Wright land necessary for a permanent easement to complete the trail. We could also help pay for RMFI. Pat moved that the wording for the CMR continue to be “net proceeds from the CMR will be used to build the Dixon Trail until the trail is completed and open to the public”. Warren seconded and the vote was unanimous.

Pat asked what we should do with the money we made on the CMR last year. Abbie suggested interpretive signs, with the notation on the bottom saying: trail brought to you by Fiends of CMSP. It would also look very good for the Friends to partner with the city of Colorado Springs. This discussion will continue.

**New Business**: There was a discussion on the funding of more Junior Ranger booklets. Since they are needed immediately, we will buy the books with Friends money. Glen moved that we pay up to $1900 for purchasing $1000 junior ranger books. Warren seconded. It was passed unanimously.

Pat asked for $1000 seed money for CMR. Jack moved so moved and Ralph seconded. The request passed unanimously.

Pat also said that PJ Anderson, an owner of a yurt on top of Cheyenne Mountain is willing to allow Friends of Cheyenne Mountain State Park to visit his yurt for a fundraiser or membership drive. This project will be organized as a summer outing. Pat will follow up.

Pat suggested having an audit. Everyone agreed that it would be a good idea. A date of midsummer is anticipated for this activity to be completed.

Carl Wooten a CMSP volunteer has selected Friends of CMSP as his nonprofit to support through his real estate business. He is donating part of his real estate income to the park. A check for $193.31 was just received from the Wootens.

Pat asked the board if we want to be a part of Amazon Smile Foundation. Amazon will donate a small percentage of their sales (.05%) to any nonprofit if they are signed up to receive the money. The board suggest we sign up and Pat will complete.

El Pomar Foundation's *Pikes Peak Recreation & Tourism Heritage Series*and Trails and Open Space Coalition invite you to attend:   *"Pikes Peak Region Trails and Open Space: Rich History, Abundant Assets, Promising Future"*  Friday, May 13, 2016  3:00pm - 5:30pm (reception to follow) Penrose House, 1661 Mesa Ave, Colorado Springs, CO 80906 . RSVP to Pat and she will make a reservation for those who want to attend.
Pat started a list of board members since the inception of the Friends to keep as a historical document. The list is currently being circulated and all board members are asked to help complete the list.

Pat moved that we adjourn. Ralph seconded. We adjourned at 5:40.

The next meeting will be April 18 at 4:00.

Respectfully submitted, Susan Simmons, Secretary