Raccoon Creek November Meeting

Thursday, February 23rd 2023 at 6:30 pm

Present: Kelsey Daniels, Ashley Grace, Nora Sullivan, Amy Mackey, Chris Kimmel, Kelly Love, Kate Blyth, Nichole Mazzone

Minutes scribed by: Nichole Mazzone

* **Action Items- Completed**
	+ Owl Prowl set up on Feb 9th @ 5pm – Anyone who can help
	+ Send out social media announcements about owl pellet kits @ local libraries- AmeriCorps
	+ Ask Pat Q. at Owl Prowl to bring birds to Summer Camp 2023- AmeriCorps
	+ Ask Molly for her insight for Spring Newsletter- AmeriCorps
	+ Send out a list of articles to potentially write about for Spring Newsletter- AmeriCorps
	+ Send RCP structure/fundraising history and agenda to Pat Q. for his students to work on fundraising project- Nora
	+ Talk to Vinton Town Mayor to see what community needs/wants are for the new park; potential for T-Mobile Hometown Grant- Chris
* **New Action Items**
	+ Send recruitment prospects for new AmeriCorps to Amy & Nora- Everyone (Ashley will mention to classmates)
	+ Conversation with the Gallia Conservation Club 3/8/23 (meet every 2nd Wed. @7pm)- Amy & friends
* **Treasurer's report**
	+ Owl Prowl -
	+ Money from Amazon Smile +
	+ Membership fees +
	+ Jackie O’s t-shirts +
* **Watershed Coordinator Update**
	+ Scenic Rivers Designation meeting w/ ODNR personnel completed
		- Streamlining process of designating RC, hope to designate by end of 2023
		- Meeting with soil & water districts
			* Affirmed NO impact on private land and discussed benefits of designation
			* Gave them a list of Summer events
			* Will be visiting 5 of 6 SWCDs (not Athens-not on river)
			* Will submit a designation study to ODNR
			* Goal to designate entire main stem (over 100 miles)
			* First scenic river in SE Ohio and potentially LONGEST in Ohio
			* Gallia SW meeting in April (last one)
			* After documents to ODNR, it will be announced and open for public comment for 30 days before approval
	+ Recruitment for AmeriCorps is in full force! Send us your humans!
		- Flyers available for distribution
		- Full time positions, August 2023 – August 2024
* **AmeriCorps Update**
	+ Apple Grafting workshop-April 16th
		- Announcements on social media
		- $10 donation
		- Will be held in classroom of Building 22
		- Derek Mills of Hocking Hills Orchard
		- Root stock has been ordered (must be refrigerated when delivered)
		- Limited to 50 people – Registration not required but will guarantee supplies
	+ Family Outdoor Day – June 3rd
		- No fish shocking demo but will bring stream table with fish
		- Looking for volunteers
		- Step Outside Grant to pay for new PFDs and storage tubs. AmeriCorps will inventory existing PFDs and submit grant.
	+ Gallia Travel Expo- tabling event ($25 fee)- March 18th
		- AmeriCorps will staff
	+ Spring Nature Day- April 28th or May 12th ??? Friday afterschool
		- Make terrariums
		- Nature hike
		- Stream stuff
		- Additional Moth event @ dark
	+ Summer Camp **July 17th- 21st** @ RC outfitters
		- Schedule out for volunteers to sign-up
		- Sign up March 13th for members and 15th for non-members
		- Will need volunteers!!
	+ Display Board – nearly complete
		- Give suggests or edits if you have any
	+ Spring Newsletter to come
		- Word Search
		- Spring flowers section
		- AmeriCorp “what are we”
		- Farewell to Molly
		- Spotted Sallies pics
	+ AmeriCorp panel (virtual) presentation March 7th
		- Tell people to contact Amy if follow-up questions
	+ Will table @ Lake Hope Nature Center for Earth Day Extravaganza – April 22nd
	+ Planning for Spring doser cleaning for those interested in helping – April 3rd
	+ Sandbox status- programs installed; needs calibrated
		- OMC might be interested
		- (Can be done in Windows software now)
* **Fundraising**
	+ Nora waiting on response back from Pat Q.
	+ Aquatic Education Grant submitted for summer camp
	+ Will submit Step Outside grant for Family Outdoor Day
	+ T-Mobile hometown grant update
		- Chris met with Vinton Village Council
			* They were interested
			* Chris will check back in with the board
* **New Business**
	+ Seriously talk about fundraising
		- Do we want a kayak? We should buy soon (research some kayaks)
		- Duck derby – ducks are dirty, need cleaned, new AmeriCorps will have to run this event!
	+ Next Meeting: Thursday, March 23rd at 6:30 PM