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