FRIENDS OF PUNDERSON MEMBERSHIP MEETING
July 8, 2008

Present: Norm Swann, Katrina Haas, Jan Rybka, Beverly Fischbach, Nick Fischbach, Don Pizmoht, Phyliss Pizmoht, Norm Owens, Nancy Owens

Meeting was called to order by Katrina Haas

Review of minutes-approved

Assistant Director's Report-Norm Swann updated the members on recent activities. The ice cream social was a success, additional events are planned. The summer newsletter articles need to be sent to Sandy Swann by July 11th. Sandy is also working on the website updates. The Division has asked each park to complete a 5 year Natural Resource Plan and many of the activities mentioned will tie into the plan.

Board President update- A donation of $150 was made by the Western Reserve Conservationists to use for the ice cream social. A discussion about potential funding sources, including local business support, ensued.

Financial Report- The balance in the treasury is $5,584.

Recruitment/Development update

Website/Newsletter update

Park Facility/Campground Update-An Eagle Scout candidate is working in building benches for the area near the Sport Chalet.

Robert Cleveland, heir to the original landowners of what is now Punderson, is delighted that the park named a street after the family. Members discussed adding some of the family history to a display or presentation about the park. It would be interesting to scan family photos for a memorial.

Assistant Division Chief, John Hunter visited the park and was very impressed with the entire property. He also commented about the flowers and landscaping and how nice it looked.

Special Events Update- August 23 Paddle Event with 2 kayaks will be raffled. Paddle Quest at other state parks have attracted numerous attendees. The Friends can help promote the event. There was a discussion about purchasing a canoe or other large items to raffle as a fund raiser. Purchase or get donation of canoe to see tickets. Need to check with Gander Mountain sponsor.

Nature/History Update-Norm Swann mentioned that the Friends could assist park staff with the creation of a mini Indian village at the nature center.
Discussion about creating a creating a historical plaque for Nelson Ledges that would be placed facing the Cascade House. Assistance is needed in developing the text.

Membership recruitment-The group discussed how additional members might be recruited. Bev suggested that members should be encouraged but given the option of attending meetings. Katrina discussed offering incentives, such as a welcome letter, a window sticker or small gift. Members agreed that all donors should receive a welcome letter. Don P suggested posting membership information on the website and placing membership posters in prominent locations. Members agreed that membership information should be distributed at social events and discussed creating information that lists what it means to become a member.

Fundraising-Fundraising from outside sources would help support the nature center and playground. Potential funding sources were discussed. These included grant writing, a donation box at events, and requests for donations from local businesses. One idea was to ask for donations through the website using a service such as Pay Pal to collect the funds. There is a service charge of 7%.

Fundraising efforts might be enhanced with a broader outreach program. Members suggested placing articles in the local papers, about the "hidden asset right down the street." Local papers include the Record Courier, Maple Leaf, and News Herald. Jan Rybka offered to assist in writing an article and making presentations to selected organizations near the park. Bev Fischbach suggested requesting memorial donations for park benches. Members agreed that all donations need to be acknowledged by a letter. Larger donors might receive a thank you gift.

Support Group-Members suggested developing a list of volunteer projects such as trail maintenance, social event assistance, spring clean up, etc. The information could be posted on the website and in the park with the time commitment and contact information.

New business
Members discussed using email to vote on pending issues between meetings.

Volunteer data-Ms. Rybka is willing to collect and track data about volunteers and annual hours worked on a database. Each year the Friends will honor a volunteer as the Friend of the Year.

Next meeting August 12, 2008 at 7 p.m. in the Park Office.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

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