

Hoosier Canoe Club

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, March 10, 2009
Hill Top North Restaurant and Pub

Attending:

Mariann Davis, Dave Ellis, Dan Evard, Sue Foxx, Garry Hill, Mary Keith, Theresa Kulczak, Suzi Rapp, Jordan Ross, Linda Smith, Matt Slagel, Jan Sneddon, Jim Sprandel, Dan Valleskey

Welcome

HCC Skipper Dan Valleskey called the meeting to order.

Minutes

The minutes of the prior meeting were reviewed and approved.

Purser's Report

Matt Slagel gave the purser's report noting that there was \$6783.96 in the checking account and \$5079.17 in the savings account for a total of \$11,863.13. The motion to accept the Purser's report was approved.

Executive Officer's Report

Theresa Kulczak provided an updated list of the club assets.

Newsletter Report

Jim announced that 127 newsletters were mailed last month. Additional newsletters were given to Dave to mail to new or renewed members. The April newsletter will have articles on using the Bulletin Board and building a skin boat. There will also be a number of trip announcements and trip reports.

Membership Report

Dave Ellis reported that we have 233 memberships that are paid through 2009 (104 paper and 129 e-mail.) He circulated a list of names of 2007 and 2008 members who have not yet renewed and asked the Board to make contacts if they spotted names they recognized. The question arose as to why people were not renewing, or as Dan V. queried, why aren't more **members** participating in trips. He speculated that some may have joined just for the safety class. Dave pointed out that active members are officer material, which we need, so it behooves the club to encourage as much active participation as possible. Theresa and Jan are going to create a no cost e-mail survey on SurveyMonkey.com that will, hopefully, shed some light on the problem. Mariann, as Publicity Chair, will make some random phone calls to 'non-renewals' to see what she can find out. Jordan has found that among the whitewater paddlers, many nonmembers feed off the trips for the shuttle convenience, but he always encourages them to join.

Publicity Report

Mariann Davis provided us with a working list of outfitters, stores and nature centers that she has contacted or will contact. She suggested that in light of the recent drowning, an article in NUVO or the Star, with the focus on safety, might be appropriate and serve the dual function of also promoting the club. Jordan mentioned that AW (American Whitewater) is a good source for safety statistics. Mariann will follow up.

Poolie Report

Jordan reported that many of the city pools will be closed this summer due to budget constraints. Thatcher will close to repair the heating and air conditioning system BUT Krannert pool will be made available for pool sessions. The Boat Demo at the Indiana School for the Blind March 7th was a big success. There were 30 participants and many went to dinner afterwards. Brian Kirk put on a great clinic and Luke Hopkins demonstrated the new "stand-up surfboards" which aren't as easy to paddle as you might think. This pool would be great for pool sessions because it is a third of the cost of what Thatcher charges. The downside is it is heavily booked already for community classes, it is not the right depth in parts for roll practice, and the school will not hold summer school this year because of cut-backs.

Conservation Report

Kellie was under the weather and not able to attend the meeting but she filed a written report noting that Joel DeLashmit and Mary Keith have volunteered to be on the Conservation Committee. The HCC June 6 Fall Creek Clean-Up is listed as an event on the Friends of the White River website (thanks to Skipper Dan V.!) Dan and Theresa have volunteered to help her scout Fall Creek. The clean-up stretch will most likely be 465 (below Killer Falls) to just above the dam located at Keystone & Fall Creek Parkway. Garry Hill is helping with a map of this area.

Eagle Creek Park Report

Kellie reports that Shirley Gates has indicated that she'd like a break from organizing **Tuesday Evening Paddles**. Shirley said her procedure is to write down what HCC did for Eagle Creek Park last year and what it can do for the Park this year, and then go talk to Karen LaMere, Park Manager. So, it's on Kellie's "to do" list to see Karen either this week or next... but before that, she would like some board feedback.

Last year, Dave Ellis did an E.C. clean-up over several evenings (with some help from Joel DeLashmit, Jim Sprandel, Todd Sullivan, and Kellie.) Shirley Gates volunteered and paddled on several of the Wednesday night sunset canoe paddles, and so did Jim Sprandel. If anyone is aware of any other helpful activities done on behalf of E.C. by HCC members, please let Kellie know.

Shirley said the other thing the club might do is to offer canoe paddling instruction to park employees, and possibly to folks who are new to paddling who attend the Wednesday sunset paddles. Kellie writes: "I'm not qualified as an instructor, so someone else would have to do this. Question for the board: should I offer this on behalf of HCC, and if they take us up on this - who would I need to talk to about arrangements? I'm willing to go on some Wednesday evening sunset paddles (but I'll be kayaking...)"

Whitewater Report

Jordan reported on the Film Festival/Big South Fork trip Feb. 20-21. They ran Clear Creek back to Oneida, TN. He had a strong group and everyone was properly outfitted.

Flatwater Report

Jim Sprandel reported on the Sugar Creek Ice Falls trip Feb. 28th. Dwayne James, Jim, Joel DeLashmit, and Tom B. saw some neat ice falls and several eagles. Temperatures were in the low thirties and the water was running fast.

Bluewater Report

Jim Sprandel is getting a group email list together to keep this arm of the club coordinated. Jim will also contact Jordan to set up a Touring Forum on the Bulletin Board

Safety and Training

The Flatwater moving water safety and training session will be May 9th on the White River at Waverly. Jim will run an article in the newsletter. It will be a mixed class with a limited enrollment of 10-12. Interested participants will need to register and indicate boat type so that we can break up instructional groups into: solo canoe, tandem canoe, rec. kayak, whitewater kayak. This way instruction can be more targeted. Garry Hill and Dave Ellis will be instructing and maybe a couple of others.

Cheer

Joy Miller sent a couple of cards to members with new babies!

Skipper's Agenda

The Bulletin Board is still in the "problem child" category and new software may be needed. The Board consensus is that this would be money well spent if it would facilitate usage. It was decided that the next step would be for Jordan to talk to Roger, our webmaster.

At some point we may want to change our dues structure so that email recipients pay less than hard copy recipients, but for now our Skipper wants to leave the membership fee as is.

Clarke Kahlo, who is active in the Hoosier Environmental Council, has contacted the club about a plan to repair an eroded stream bank on Martindale Creek with broken concrete. This creek is in Wayne county near Richmond. Aesthetically, this would not be very satisfactory. It was decided that the Club, in an effort to encourage a more natural looking repair, would address Clarke's concern via a letter to support his efforts.

In a general discussion of the need to identify instructors to help with club clinics, Dan V. reviewed ACA certification, which is a primary source of instruction now since the Red Cross no longer offers a paddling course. The ACA certificate is very much aimed at people that teach paddle sports for a living, or people who will be teaching classes 10 or 15 weekends a year. To receive a flatwater instructor certification from ACA, you would need to commit to 2 weekends of classes. Any course you then teach must be registered with ACA and the participants must be insured through ACA. It is also a requirement that you update your certification periodically. Concerning alternative sources of training, Garry Hill mentioned that NOC offers a 9 day

instructor's course. Suzi Rapp mentioned that TSRA offers a good instructor's course that is on 2 weekends. Theresa had taken a good flatwater course on Cicero taught by John Slocum and suggested bringing in a qualified instructor from outside the club as a solution.

The Skipper circulated a very nice laminated and spiral bound **White River Guidebook** that *Friends of the White River* is selling as a fundraiser. It has detailed maps for Hamilton and Marion counties. It is \$25 and waterproof so would be very handy to have on board for your next White River trip.

Theresa mentioned that Deb is thinking about a memorial paddle for Reggie on Lake Monroe, possibly May or June. It would probably involve a pitch-in cook out. More details later.

The next Board meeting for the Hoosier Canoe Club will be Tuesday, April 14th at Hill Top North Restaurant and Pub at 5500 North Emerson Way.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:
Linda Smith, Yeoman