

**Minutes of FETCH Fall meeting, Sept. 18, 2018.** Written and submitted Sept. 19, 2018.

5:00 p.m. -6:30 p.m. Danville Public Works and Urban Development Building, 1155 E. Voorhees, Danville, IL.

Attendees: John Linville (Chair); Elisabeth Grezelak (Secretary/Treasurer); leadership team members Brad Wheeler, Kevin Fretty, Connie Kittell, Steve Houghton, Shelley Cox, and Terri Clayton; park rangers Kori Bowers and Brad Weaver; Fetch volunteers Greg and Judy Donath; Steve Lane from Danville Public Works.

- I. Minutes of the Nov. 1, 2017, Fall meeting were approved.
- II. Treasurer's Report was approved. Summary: \$6115.16 in Assets/Income; \$2493.91 in Expenses from 11/1/17-9/18/18; 176 memberships sold so far for 2018=176.
- III. Grounds maintenance discussion:
  - a. Mr. Bowers agreed to replace broken fence rails. About 50 spare rails remain, yet are not in the greatest of shape.
  - b. Per Mr. Lane, this fall, the City will replace the two dead honor trees, will remove unnecessary tree supports, and will examine and potentially cut off a damaged tree limb in the small side of the park.
  - c. Re: weeds—Mr. Linville will explore the cost of purchasing a gas weed trimmer. There remain differing opinions about the best way to approach weeds: chemical weed-killer (concerns expressed about toxicity) vs. weed trimmers (concerns pertain to damage to the trees, plus the amount of time it takes). Issue is unresolved [further input from Darrel Jacobs would be appreciated]. Also, there was some discussion about whether fall treatment of thistle will take place this year—remains undecided.
  - d. Grounds crew. The team greatly appreciates the efforts this year of volunteers Kevin Fretty, Brad Weaver, Greg Donath, and Gary Goodyear. Brad Wheeler expressed hope that he will be able to join the crew next year.
- IV. Bag dispensers: The new bag dispensers in the special needs area, designed by Vince Koers, work great. Mr. Koers's maintenance of the dispensers is appreciated. Decision was made to ask Mr. Koers to make at least one new dispenser to be placed at the shelter on the north end of the large side of the park. A few other dispensers placed strategically at points a significant distance away from the main dispensers might also be helpful.
- V. Upgrades are still needed for the special needs area: Mr. Lane agreed to secure a waste bin. He will also pursue installation of a shade shelter. Although a water station still needs to be installed, he is uncertain, given staffing issues, as to when that will be possible.
- VI. Re: replacement of the broken security gate system. Two options were discussed:
  - a. Option 1: Cost of system=\$1950. Key features: Windows touch-screen reader housed within the metal box just inside the gate; waterproof; can program 3000 cards; data can be backed up onto a flash-drive.
  - b. Option 2: Cost of system=\$400. This is the identical system that was previously used.
  - c. Decision: Option 2. Reasoning: Primarily cost. Despite the appealing features of the \$1950 system, and despite the possibility that a donation might be made to cover the system, we (1) do not have insurance that would cover a possible future breakdown of the system, (2) although our current system "probably" was struck by lightning, we are

uncertain as to whether it somehow might have been tampered with, and do not want to take the risk of it happening again to a more expensive system.

- VII. Procedures for reactivation of the replacement security gate system:
- a. Once the system is installed by Tom Wagner, a letter will be sent from the Secretary to all members, detailing procedures to be followed: all key cards will need to be reprogrammed, which requires the physical card.
  - b. Members will be given two options: (1) Mail their key card to the Secretary. The card will be reprogrammed, then mailed back to the member (or they can pick it up on the scheduled day of option 2; (2) One Saturday morning (to be determined), members can bring their cards to the park for reprogramming. To avoid congestion, the mail-in option will be encouraged. If the mail-in option is chosen by a member, FETCH will pay for the return postage but not the original postage.
  - c. Although the system will have to be turned on for reprogramming of the cards, there will be a specified window of time during which it will be turned off again (perhaps about 10 days?) to enable entry into the park during the period that cards are being reprogrammed.
  - d. *Members should look for the letter of instructions and refer to the park bulletin board for final details and dates.*
- VIII. Discussion and decision about how to address the fact that some nonmembers have been jumping the fence and letting multiple dogs/people into the park by pushing the exit button. Two options were discussed; option b was chosen:
- a. Option: requiring a key-card swipe to exit the park rather than use the push button. Concerns were expressed that, although this would be an effective deterrent, a member might have difficulty exiting if they had to quickly leave the park in an emergency, or they might get trapped if they lose their key card within the park and cannot find it. Also, there was also some concern about whether there might be some legal liability for injury/entrapment of a trespasser, as illogical as that may sound.
  - b. Option/agreed upon: Purchase and installation of "Trail Cameras," probably four. These are battery operated; have video cards that can be periodically (weekly?/when a trespass is suspected) removed and viewed; and would be installed in trees/on poles, directed at the gate and parking area. Steps to be taken [after approval by the City]:
    1. Mr. Bowers will investigate the cost (probably around \$80) and report back to the Secretary.
    2. Mr. Bowers and Mr. Linville, with any necessary help from leadership team members, will install the cameras.
    3. A few signs will be designed, ordered from the City, to the effect of "No Trespassing"/ "Area is under Camera Surveillance" and will be placed at relevant locations (perhaps the entry to the parking lot and on the park fence). Ms. Clayton will make suggestions to the park officers about signs, and will contact Mr. Lane about production.
    4. Mr. Linville will periodically monitor the videos and will share any trespassing/vandalism information with Ms. Grzelak and/or the police, as appropriate.

