

Skunk River Paddlers

Annual Meeting—January 15, 2006
5782 Felber Street, Ames, Iowa

Attendance: Adam Brooks, Dan Shaffer, Dave Kraemer, Greg Vitale, Scott McCalmont, Rick Dietz, Dick Howard, Carolyn Komar, Lynn Aldridge, Carol & Mike Meyhoefer

Introduction and slide show by Dave. There were 350 hours volunteered toward the Skunk River Water Trail in 2005.

Presentation of financial position by Greg.

Discussion of the Adopt-A-Park program. Dan will contact Carol Williams at Story County Conservation about renewing our adoption of the Sleepy Hollow access. Greg will serve as backup leadership for Dan. Rick reported that no summer workdays are scheduled for 2006. This means that dates will need to be scheduled for the clean-up of the park. Greg suggested before the Paddlin' at the Pits events. Greg has talked with SCC regarding other parks; all parks are adopted, but not all volunteers want a sign posted.

The Spring Festival is scheduled for May 7. Piper Wall, Adam, and Rick will lead up the canoe rides for this event. Greg will send out an announcement one week before the event.

The Paddlin' at the Pits event will alternate between Peterson Park and Ada Hayden this year. The third Wednesday in May is scheduled for a race paddle clinic. Rick, Dave, Piper, Peter Arthur, and Dan will be a subcommittee to lay out a schedule for informal skill exercises.

Dan will once again head up the canoe race events. There was discussion about approaching businesses for prizes or sponsorships. Dave volunteered the services of Curt Carlson, manager of North Grand Mall.

It was thought that we should stick with the printer in Ankeny for next year's Paddle Iowa calendar. Greg will check on whether we can organize under RC&D to qualify as a charitable organization. Next year's photos and production team will be led by Scott and Rick, with the calendar to be put together by Carolyn. Rick and Greg will continue to work on assembling the dates for next year.

Adam will lead the effort to establish water trail signs for the Skunk River Water Trail.

Greg will coordinate with the historical society regarding the kiosks. Rick and Greg will supply information for the design to Jerry Keyes and Carol Williams.

Dave, Adam, and Rick will lead the effort on the Story City dam conversion project. Rick circulated preliminary drawings and estimates for the project.

Establishing water trail access to the McFarland campsites was discussed. The goal is to combine this project with the April workday. Greg and Rick will meet with Rick Carter to plan the work. Dick can work during the week.

West Peterson—a portage path from the Pits to the river would allow a paddle loop to be made. Greg and Rick will meet with Rick Carter to discuss the feasibility of this idea.

River Valley Park—establishing an Americans with Disabilities Act access point was discussed and preliminary sketches were presented. Carolyn will talk to Dave Denhaan about ideas for such an access. Dave Kraemer has been working with architect John Lott of Benjamin Design Collaborative on the project.

Establishing an access point at South 16th Street was discussed. Greg will e-mail Dave and ask John Joiner to give a heads up. Greg will also coordinate at the city council meeting. Dave Kraemer has been heading this effort. We had asked John to consider incorporating an access into the new bridge construction; he liked the idea & asked that it be included in proposals. The city council will be reviewing proposals soon & we'll want to voice support for the idea.

New business—creating an executive committee was discussed. Possible members might include Piper Wall, Rick, Dave, Carolyn, Joe Klinsky, Scott, Curt Carlson, Russ Cross, and Dan.

New business—Carolyn is to follow-up on assembling a spreadsheet listing all current Skunk River Paddlers.

Minutes prepared by Scott McCalmont