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Friends of Harrison Hills Park - Meeting Minutes May 21, 2022

FOHH Attendees: Sharon Svitek, Nick Svitek, Donna Smith, Dan Smith, Susan Goughler, DaveBrooke, Carly Deskins

Guests: Sam Shephard, Jon Love, Ian Love

Meeting was called to order at 10:00am. New

member Sanford Lueba did not attend. New

Scout Project

Boy scout Ian Love and his father Jon Love attended the meeting so that we could tell them of the Bulletin Board project that we had in mind for an Eagle Scout project. We explained the project. Susan was going to send Ian and Sam the form that was already approved for this Bulletin Board to be installed and Dan was to send them some design ideas. Ian wants to do his project in July 2022. After the meeting, Sam Shephard informed all of us that the county will not allow any other bulletin board to be installed unless it is the pre-built ones that they are purchasing for the parks. This would not be suitable for an Eagle Scout project; therefore, the project was nixed.

Sam suggested Ian build a turnpike on the Green trail and Ian was approved to do this for his Eagle Scout project.

Treasurer's Report:

No changes – no money spent, no money received

Updates:

- **Programs and Events:**

Andy Grobe, should be made aware of our programs so they can help advertise them. His email address is: Andrew.Grobe@alleghenycounty.us Andy works for the county parks department.

Report from our bird walk that took place on May 7, 2022 – it was a rainy day but the 5 people that came had a great time! Thanks to Dave Brooke for leading the walk.

Discussion of why there are no programs being offered by Tammy Watychowicz this year. It is because she has retired. Susan has her phone number if we want to contact her to do programs for us.

- **Ranger News:**

County programs list is out. Sharon linked these to the FOHH webpage.

2 Kiosks going up at entrance to the Red Trail across from Baneberry grove. They are the standardized kiosks that all county parks are required to use.

6 seasonal park rangers have started for the summer. Sam will email Donna with their names so she can give them security codes to access the ELC.

Park ranger Ben is the lead on scout projects and trail stewardship work. He is currently working with scout Mason Powell to fix/replace bat boxes. Another scout is removing invasive species along the purple trail as his scout project on June 16, 2022.

New trees were planted in soccer field and entrance. These will eventually provide shade to crowds watching the soccer games.

Road paving in the park should be done next week; dog park being built and should be done this summer.

Changes to the blue trail are being considered because it's so swampy. High priority project. Trail crew will be working on the red trail soon.

Rangers will open the ELC to visitors every Sunday throughout the summer starting on 6/26/2022.

- **Social Media/Website**

Carly reinstated our Instagram account and she will look into connecting Facebook stuff to Instagram.

Sharon will work on a page for everyone about how to access all of our accounts.

Sam will ask scouts that are working on projects to email the FOHH email account so that we can put their projects on Facebook.

Dave offered to put out a summer newsletter. Send him information to put in it.

- **Bird Food:**

It was discovered that the bird food for the bird feeders at the North Park Latodomi Nature Center is paid for by the county and the feeders are filled by county parks personnel. Sam offered to check into the county parks buying our bird food and filling the feeders at our Environmental Learning Center too.

- **Maintenance of outdoor learning center**

Sharon has not received a call or email from Mike Dutch since he told us that there is an agreement in place with the FOHH that says the FOHH agreed to do the maintenance around the outdoor classroom including mowing the mound of grass and that the FOHH are also responsible to keep the inside clean. Mike said that this agreement was

important because the Friends group did not want to take the county laborers away from their jobs in the park. The weeding, mowing the mound, spreading the wood carpet and maintaining the Outdoor Classroom were to be the responsibilities of the Friends group and their volunteers. Sharon asked Mike to meet in person at the park so that he could give her the agreement, but he wasn't available and never returned her requests for another meeting.

New Business:

- Harrison Hills Ecological Assessment and Action Plan – Data is currently being gathered for writing this plan. An update of the recent meeting regarding this plan was given to the group from Dave Brooke and Sam Shephard. More information on what projects that have been done as a result of these plans can be found on the Allegheny Parks Foundation website.
- Rachel Carson Challenge group will be using the ELC on June 17&18, 2022 for feeding the hikers at the end of the race this year.
- A service project will be done at the ELC on June 23, 2022 by a group from the Church of Latter Day Saints of Jesus Christ located in Sarver. Darlene Tolman will lead the project where they will weed and mulch the rain garden. We agreed to purchase the mulch for them to use - Susan will get it for us.
- Donna told us of an email we received of someone wanting to donate money to us in memory of someone. Donna will email the person back and tell them we'd be glad to accept the donation!

Meeting ended at 11:00 am

Friends of Harrison Hills Park - Meeting Minutes September 17, 2022

FOHH Attendees: Sharon Svitek, Nick Svitek, Donna Smith, Dan Smith, Susan Goughler, Carly Deskins

Guests: Sam Shephard (via phone) Meeting

was called to order at 10:00am. Treasurer's

Report:

\$4,630.30 – checking

\$1,900 – in Parks Foundation

County Ordinance – Sharon reminded the group of Section 215-14 of the ordinance which requires us to send in the meeting minutes after our meetings. Sharon volunteered to send in the meeting minutes for this meeting and the May 2022 meeting.

Updates:

- **Ranger News:**

Sam Shephard updated the group with the ranger upcoming programs and events. He will send us the program guide and will post a new one to the ELC bulletin board on the porch. Sharon linked the fall ranger programs to the FOHH webpage. Carly will post the events to our social media pages too.

Susan asked Sam about the bulletin board kiosk that the park is supposed to put in front of the ELC. Sam will check where that project stands. The other 2 kiosks that were planned for Harrison Hills haven't been put up yet either.

More trees will be planted around the field of the south pond with a school group (Gateway) on 10/25. Izaak Walton League will also be planting trees on 10/23 around the Blue Trail area.

Sam is looking for volunteers to be park stewards/volunteers to maintain newly planted trees by pulling vines and invasive species from around them. Sam asked that we put an article in our newsletter and we agreed to do that if we do a fall newsletter.

Machine trail work will be done on a trail that leads to the North Pond. Sam noted that invasive species need removed in this area of the park also.

- **Scout Projects:**

Ian Love finished turnpike on the Green Trail on July 30th. Sam was happy to report that there is only one more wet/muddy section to fix on this trail and the park will probably take care of that.

Mason Powell is still working on the bat boxes and they should be finished this fall.

- **Service Project Report:**

Sharon updated the group on the service project which was done on June 23, 2022 by a group from the Church of Latter Day Saints of Jesus Christ located in Sarver. Darlene Tolman and her helpers weeded and mulched the rain garden. (Thanks to Susan and Don Goughler for getting the mulch!) The group didn't finish the project completely, so Sharon finished. This led into a discussion of needing help with the maintenance and upkeep of the outdoor learning center. Sharon brought up an idea she had – see new business.

- **Bird Food:**

We asked Sam about the bird food and Sam reported that he asked Blaize Smith to order bird food for Harrison Hills when they ordered for North Park. Sam will check into this for us since we haven't received any bird food yet. (The next week Sam was successful in getting us the bird food. We purchased a metal garbage can and bungee cords and put the food into the room beside the garage.)

New Business:

- **Pitt Serves Community Grant** – we have \$542.09 left in the grant which we received in May 2020. The Parks Foundation is holding this money for us and wants us to use it by the end of the year. This money was supposed to be for the materials to build a bulletin board which was to have our "tree map" on it but we were told we could not build our own bulletin board since the park is standardizing them. We brainstormed ideas for how to use this money. The idea that was unanimously chosen was to freshen up the front room of the ELC with new paint, updated photos and add information about the Native American Indians which lived in this area. Susan Goughler will contact the Parks Foundation to tell them of this idea so they can request approval from Pitt to use the remainder of the money in this way. (The project was approved by Pitt – see Susan's 10/22/2022 email.)
- **Master Gardeners** – a possible solution to maintenance of the outdoor learning center gardens? - Sharon reported on a volunteer project she worked on through Penn State where she met people who are Master Gardeners. Through conversations with them, she found out that they maintain the gardens at North Park and if we have gardens that are used for an educational purpose, maybe we could partner with a master gardener group to maintain the ELC gardens too – namely the rain garden and pollinator garden. Everyone agreed that would be a good idea. Sharon will look into this.
- **Friends of Harrison Hills gmail & security alarm system** – Donna reported that she is stepping down from her role of checking the gmail account and updating the security

FOHH Mtg Notes

September 17, 2022

alarm approvals. **We thanked her for a job well done!!** Donna also reported a large amount of spam coming into the mailbox lately. Sharon will contact Grace about how this gmail account was set up and to see if we can re-set it due to the SPAM we are receiving. **VOLUNTEER NEEDED TO CHECK THE FOHH GMAIL!** We all agreed that this security alarm should not be left to the Friends of Harrison Hills advisory group to maintain. Sharon will bring this up with the county parks people to see how we can hand this over to them.

Meeting ended at 11:00 am

Friends of Harrison Hills Park - Meeting Minutes November 19, 2022

FOHH Attendees: Sharon Svitek, Donna Smith, Dan Smith, Susan Goughler, Carly Deskins, DaveBrooke

Guests: Sam Shephard

Meeting was called to order at 10:00am.

Treasurer's Report:

\$4,596.46 – checking; \$1,900 – in Parks Foundation

Updates:

- **Harrison Hills Ecological Assessment & Action Plan/Programs:**

The final meeting for the Ecological Assessment and Action Plan is to be held on 12/8/2022. We think it would be a great idea to have a presentation given on the final plan as a spring program. Dave Brooke is going to attend the final meeting and will look for a speaker to do a presentation for us in 2023.

- **Ranger News:**

Sam Shephard updated the group with the ranger upcoming programs and events. He will send us the program guide and will post a new one to the ELC bulletin board on the porch. Sharon will link the winter ranger programs to the FOHH webpage. Carly will post the events to our social media pages too.

Seasonal rangers are finished for the year.

Sam Shepard was approached by Ken Kostka who wants to put up a barn swallow nesting structure and is looking for funding. When Ken gets the costs together, he may approach the Friends of Harrison Hills to ask for a donation. The group thought that would be a good use of the money we have in the Parks Foundation account.

Ranger Ben is working with Bird Lab to band saw-whet owls and they've banded 11 of them so far at Harrison Hills Park. This is the pilot year for this project and they may be looking for funding in the future for more work. This project would be a good presentation to have in 2023.

Sam is still looking for volunteers to be park stewards/volunteers to maintain newly planted trees by pulling vines and invasive species from around them. He has two volunteers so far but could use more.

- **Scout Projects:**

Mason Powell built four bat boxes. Three have been put in place and one is fully constructed but not up yet.

- **Public Relations:**
Carly is getting quite a few questions on when the dog park will be opening. She will post a message on Facebook that dog park questions go to the county and will post the link to the County Park's inquiries web page.
- **Bird Box Monitoring Group – 2022 Summary:**
Dave reported that we had a good season. 13 volunteers checked the 29 nest boxes every week. 64 Bluebirds fledged and 43 tree swallows fledged from our boxes in 2022. Dave also reported that a lot of the bird boxes will need replaced next season. A motion was made to purchase supplies to build new nesting boxes to replace those where needed. The motion was approved unanimously. Dave will take care of purchasing supplies and building the boxes. Sharon offered to help if needed.
- **Pitt Serves Community Grant** – Susan has begun purchasing supplies and is researching Indian cultures that lived in our area in order to build the display for the front room of the ELC. We picked a paint color for the walls at the meeting. Susan will purchase the paint and the rest of the items needed for this project by Dec. 31, 2022. Susan and Dave stayed after the meeting to build the shelving unit.

New Business:

- **Friends of Harrison Hills gmail & security alarm system**
-Dave volunteered to check the gmail account.
-Sam Shephard agreed to take over the security system. This makes sense since it is the rangers that need to be added and deleted each year to the system. Sam and Donna will meet and work out the details. The security system hardware was updated recently by the county parks.
- **ELC Repairs:**
Roofers have repaired the roof.
A work order has been put in to repair the wall in the front room of the ELC. The county workers will fix the wall and paint it.
- **Maintenance of Outdoor Learning Center:**
Need to discuss maintenance of the Outdoor Learning Center with Andy Baechle, Director of Parks. Sharon will contact him.

Meeting ended at 11:00 am

Friends of Harrison Hills Park - Meeting Minutes January 21, 2023

FOHH Attendees: Sharon Svitek, Nick Svitek, Donna Smith, Susan Goughler, Carly Deskins, DaveBrooke

Guests: Park Ranger Sam Shephard, Joey-Linn Ulrich and Jaime Filipek from Allegheny CountyParks Foundation

Meeting was called to order at 10:00am.

Treasurer's Report:

\$4,410.20 – checking; \$1,900 – in Parks Foundation

We asked Joey-Linn to verify that our \$1,900 is still in the Parks Foundation account. Susan and I received an email from Barbara Brewton on January 23, 2023 confirming that we have \$1,900.00 at the Parks Foundation designated for the Friends of Harrison Hills. Her message also stated that in order to use these funds, we either submit receipts via postal mail for reimbursement as we have been doing, or we could ask them to purchase the items for us.

Updates:

- **Programs**

Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) – Sharon reported that she wants to open the ELC on Feb. 18 from 10am to 1pm to participate in the GBBC. Dave also volunteered to help and suggested it would be nice if the rangers could attend and offer to take a short hike if anyone that shows up is interested. Sam would get back to Dave if any of the rangers would be there too. Dave agreed to send out a mailchimp message with the details and contact the Trib to put it in the stroller. Sharon will send him the flyer used in the past. Carly will post the information on facebook and Instagram.

Mushroom Program – Nick and Carly will look into a mushroom program for the fall. Susan suggested to contact Adam Harrington. Sam suggested to focus on the westernPA mushroom club since they have approval to forage for mushroom in the park. Sam noted that nobody should be taking anything (i.e. mushrooms, wildflowers, etc.) from the park without approval.

Harrison Hills Ecological Assessment & Action Plan Program - The final meeting for the Ecological Assessment and Action Plan was held on December 8, 2022. Joey-Linn reported that they don't know when the report will be finalized. We want to have a presentation when the plan is finalized and Joey-Linn offered to find a speaker for us. E-mail received from Joey-Linn on Jan. 23, 2023 that she is following up with Nicole Deler(sp?) regarding a speaker for our future event on the ecological assessment. Joey-Linn also noted that the Allegheny County Parks Foundation funded a stream study for the county parks and it is almost finished.

- **Ranger News:**

Sam Shephard handed out the Ranger Program flyer for Jan-Mar 2023. The programs are already listed on our FOHH webpage. Carly will post the events to our social mediapages .

Sam and Braden continue to try to connect trails near the cell tower which is a missing link for connecting many different trails systems in the area. They think they're close to having a viable route but will need to get approval from Norfolk-southern since some of the trail would be on their property.

They are also working on making the blue trail and purple trail better by keeping the best of both trails, combining them and naming it all the purple trail.

Sam is still looking for volunteers to be park stewards/volunteers to maintain newly planted trees by pulling vines and invasive species from around them. He has two volunteers so far but is always looking for more.

- **Scout Projects:**

No new projects. Sam would like the next scout project to be a bridge across the creek on the blue trail, (which will eventually become the purple trail.)

- **Public Relations:**

As noted above, upcoming ranger programs and GBBC will be posted to facebook and Instagram and GBBC flyer will be distributed by mail chimp about a week before the event.

- **Pitt Serves Community Grant** – Susan has most of the supplies purchased for the Indian cultures display for the front room of the ELC. She has been working with a person from the Three Rivers Council of Native Americans. The Pitt Serves Community Grant money has been all used.

A motion was made to allow Susan to purchase the remaining supplies she needs to complete the Native American Indian project using the money we have with the Allegheny County Parks Foundation. **Motion unanimously passed.**

Old Business:

- **Friends of Harrison Hills gmail & security alarm system**

-Sam and Donna met to review how the security system is handled and Sam/the county have taken over maintaining the security system.

- **ELC Repairs:**

As noted in the last meeting notes, a work order has been put in to repair the wall in the front room of the ELC. The county workers will fix the wall and paint it. In the meantime Susan has covered the large hole in the wall with a banner.

- **Maintenance of Outdoor Learning Center/Gardens:**

Sharon has sent an email to Andy Baechle, Director of County Parks, to schedule him to meet with us but has not received a reply. Sharon asked Sam if he could nudge Andy to reply so we could discuss maintenance of the Outdoor Learning Center with him. Spring is coming soon and the maintenance needs to be figured out. The weeds took over last year and it looked awful and it wasn't useable in that condition.

Sharon has also sent a message to Val Sesler of the Master Gardener group to see if they could help us maintain the pollinator garden. She has not received a reply yet.

Susan offered to contact Sherri Sheperd who is a master gardener that put on presentations for us in the past to see if Sherri has a master gardener contact for us to discuss maintenance of our gardens for educational purposes.

Sam and Dave offered to check with the Master Naturalist group to see if we can get their assistance with the pollinator garden. We should ask if they'd do a pollinator presentation for us too.

And lastly, Susan will contact Alan Pawloski who is organizing the Garden Groupies that uses the greenhouse in the spring, to get their group to help with weeding the rain garden this year. They are there every day from the end of March until the end of May watering their plants. We thought they could spend some time weeding the rain garden for us too in exchange for them using our greenhouse.

New Business

Pitt Serves Community Grant – another grant round is now open until October and Susan offered to submit a proposal. We should think of ideas for the next meeting.

New Sign at the Park – we thought that the county should consider placing signs notifying park users not to take anything out of the park unless they have permission. Most everyone knows of or has seen people doing this! Sam suggested these signs be placed at all of the parks.

Meeting ended at 11:30 am

Friends of Harrison Hills Park - Meeting Minutes March 18, 2023

FOHH Attendees: Sharon Svitek, Nick Svitek, Susan Goughler, Carly Deskins, Dave Brooke

Guests: Donna Smith, Ken Kostka, Park Ranger Sam Shephard, Caitlin Harpster from AlleghenyCounty Parks Foundation

Meeting was called to order at 10:00am.

Treasurer's Report:

\$3,947.40 – checking; \$1,900 – in Parks Foundation

Updates:

- **Programs**

Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) – Took place on Feb. 18 and 19 and went very well! 11 people came on Saturday; 8 on Sunday; Rangers and Dave Brooke took people out onwalks; Trib Review reporter came and spent 2 hours and put an article in the paper.

Harrison Hills Ecological Assessment & Action Plan Program - The report is finished and was emailed to us from Dave and Sam. Sharon will add a link to the report on our website. We decided a program on this plan would be a good idea. Possibly in May.

We should have a speaker from the Allegheny County Parks Foundation (Nicole) and possibly the landscape architect, Sarah Madden, too.

Spring Bird Hike – Dave will do this on May 27, 2023

Purple Martin Presentation – At the meeting we asked Ken Kostka if he would do a presentation about the purple martins in June and he agreed. Sharon will coordinate the event.

- **Ranger News:**

Sam Shephard handed out the Ranger Program flyer for April-June 2023. Sharon will post the programs on our FOHH webpage. Carly will post the events to our social media pages.

Sam reported that gravel will be put down in the muddy area at the beginning of the Green Trail in the near future.

April 6th – tree planting with Isaac Walton league will take place from 10am-1pm.

- **Miscellaneous:**

-Sam will remind Blaize to order more birdseed for Harrison Hills Park.

-16 new Bluebird boxes have been built by Dave Brooke with funds we previously approved to be spent. Dave provided receipts for \$335 for reimbursement. Thank you Dave!

- **Public Relations:**
Spring newsletter will be done in April – send Dave articles. He’s planning to put Eco-Assessment info in and any programs we want to schedule too.
- **Native American Indian Project/Pitt Serves Community Grant** – Susan has finished the Native American Indian cultures display in the front room of the ELC! The longhouse was built for us by Miguel Sague of the Three Rivers Council of native Americans. Susan will look into having someone from the group provide a presentation for us. The Pitt Serves grant was used as well as additional money we previously approved to be taken from the money we have with the Allegheny County Parks Foundation. Susan will provide receipts to the parks foundation for reimbursement.

Old Business:

- **Maintenance of Outdoor Learning Center/Gardens:**
Nothing new to report. Sharon will bring this issue up at the Teams meeting she will be attending with county council on March 29, 2023.
- **Miscellaneous:** Carly asked about the signage reminding people to not take things such as mushrooms, ramps, flowers, etc. from the park. Sam will add this type of information to the kiosks that are being installed soon.

New Business

Pitt Serves Day – April 1st – 10am to 2pm. Susan requested 15 Pitt Students for the day. We decided that we should have them mulch around the trees in meadow and outdoor learning center. Sam will ask Mike Dutch to move mulch closer to meadow. Sharon will arrange for pizza and water for the group for 1pm. Decided not to mulch the path in the Outdoor Learning Center since we thought we should move away from having this path at all due to not being able to keep up with maintenance of it.

Painting of Ramp - Susan will have paint shaken and she asked Mike Dutch to power wash handicapped ramp so it can be painted. [The power washing was completed later in March.]

Annual Review of Friends of the Parks, March 29th 4pm Teams Meeting – Allegheny County Council Committee on Parks is having a Teams meeting to allow each “Friends of the Parks” group to give a summary of their activities for calendar year 2022. Sharon will attend the meeting and provide the summary for our group.

Allegheny County Parks Foundation – we have been asked to give feedback on a proposal regarding the “Small Improvement Projects Program” which will be voted on by the Allegheny County Parks Foundation on March 21, 2023. We had no comments.

-Caitlin reported that the Allegheny County Parks Survey is going up on their website within a month. It hasn't been done since 2016.

-If anyone wants their e-newsletter, give Caitlin your email. It comes out once per month.

Barn Swallow Project – Ken Kostka explained his idea to put up 6 barn swallow nesting structures to see if he can get a pair of barn swallow to nest. He brought a structure to the meeting. Sam Shephard and Ken will look for locations for these structures today after the meeting. No funding requested from us now, but maybe in the future if this experiment is successful, he may ask for funding for a larger structure.

Meeting with other “Friends of the Parks” groups – it was brought up that we should attempt to meet with other friends groups to discuss ideas. This had been done in the past and all thought it would be a good idea to do it again.

New Contact at Allegheny County Parks: Brooke Bossong has replaced Andy Grobe and needs to be apprised of the programs that we are doing. Her contact information is:
brooke.bossong@alleghenycounty.us

Meeting ended at 11:35 am

Friends of Harrison Hills Park - Meeting Minutes May 22, 2023

FOHH Attendees: Sharon Svitek, Nick Svitek, Susan Goughler, Carly Deskins, Dave Brooke, DanSmith

Guests: Donna Smith, Park Ranger Sam Shephard, Caitlin Harpster from Allegheny County Parks Foundation

Meeting was called to order at 6pm.

Treasurer's Report:

\$3,326.41 – checking; \$1,900 – in Parks Foundation

New Business

- **“Terms of Use Agreement” with County Parks Department:** Agreement is being finalized. On May 1, 2023 Susan and Sharon attended a meeting with Andy Baechle, EricWilliams, Mike Dutch, Sam Shepard and Brandon Meiter to discuss the agreement which had expired. The County agreed to maintain the outdoor learning center pathway and trim around the structures. They may re-configure and re-purpose the space to make it better for ranger programs. The agreement is being revised and will be sent to Sharon for review.
- **Meeting Time Change:** During the May 1st meeting with the county, we found out that all other parks friends groups meet during the week. If we would do that, Andy Baechle may be able to attend our meetings. We voted to change our FOHH meetings to the 3rd Monday of every other month beginning with our July 2023 meeting.

Updates:

- **Programs**
Upcoming events:
Dave's Spring Bird Hike-May 27, 2023;
Ken Kostka's Purple Martin presentation-June 17, 2023
- **Ranger News:**
Gravel was put down on Green Trail to fix the last mud problem on that trail.
Blue trail bridge – Rangers will be doing this since no scout has approached us for a project
Trail crew will be here to re-route some areas of the Red Trail near the north pond.
Seasonal crew will do trail maintenance this summer.
- **Miscellaneous:**
Carly suggested that we think about making an entrance to the park for pedestrians. Parks Foundation will be doing a social media campaign this summer in each park.
- **Public Relations:**

Spring newsletter will be done in April – send Dave articles. He’s planning to put Eco-Assessment info in and any programs we want to schedule too.

- **Native American Indian Project:**

Newspaper article was done about the display. Great work Susan!! Susan has not been reimbursed yet but she will contact the Parks Foundation to follow up on that.

Old Business:

- **Maintenance of Outdoor Learning Center/Gardens:**

County has agreed to cut the grass. See more in “New Business” We will still have to maintain the rain garden, raised beds and pollinator garden if we want to keep them nice.

- **Pitt Serves Day** – April 1st – 10am to 2pm was cancelled due to lack of student volunteers. The ELC still needs cleaned, so Sharon’s nephew Andrew Ross will do the cleaning since he needs service hours.

- **Annual Review of Friends of the Parks, March 29th 4pm Teams Meeting** – Sharon attended the Teams meeting with the Allegheny County Council Committee on Parks and gave a summary of our activities. No questions were asked.

Meeting ended at 6:45pm.

Friends of Harrison Hills Park - Meeting Minutes July 24, 2023

FOHH Attendees: Sharon Svitek, Susan Goughler, Dave Brooke

Guests: Jamie Filipek from Allegheny County Parks Foundation

Meeting was called to order at 6pm.

Treasurer's Report:

\$3,751.71 – checking; \$1,490.70 – in Parks Foundation [Dan Smith provided this information to Sharon prior to the meeting since he couldn't attend.]

New Business

- **Allegheny County Parks Foundation:** Jamie told us that a one page form was created for us to request our funds from the Parks Foundation. She will send that to us. Jamie also reported that they accept donations for benches at the parks and they received a donation to install a bench for Robert Crytzler. Jamie also thanked Carly and Nick (and Turner) for their participation with their recent campaign.
- **Bluebird display in ELC:** Dave offered to work on improving the bluebird display in the ELC. Susan Goughler donated a bluebird box which was installed inside the ELC and Dave offered to work on a poster to explain the bluebird (and other cavity nesting birds) monitoring program that we do at the park.
- **PittServes:** Susan received an email from Pitt asking if we'd like to have students do some work at the park in October. We decided that we'll ask for a small group of students to do some cleaning in the ELC and to paint the handicapped ramp. Susan will send in the information to Pitt to participate in the program.

Updates:

- **"Terms of Use Agreement" with County Parks Department:** Agreement was finalized and signed. (Copy of agreement attached.)
- **Programs**
Upcoming events:
 - Dave will do another bird walk probably in September
 - Discussed having the presentation on the Ecological Assessment in the spring 2024
 - Aug. 16th – Allegheny county acoustics event will take place at Yakaon pavilion. Jimbo Jackson will play.
- **Public Relations:**
Dave plans to send out a newsletter at the end of August

FOHH Mtg Notes

July 24, 2023

Old Business:

- Purple martin presentation was a success. Dave will put info about it in the newsletter.
- Change of meeting times reminder. Meetings will be on the third Monday of every other month. Sharon apologized for the confusion in July when she held the meeting on the 4th Monday.

Meeting ended at 6:45pm.

Friends of Harrison Hills Park - Meeting Minutes September 18, 2023

FOHH Attendees: Sharon Svitek, Dave Brooke, Carly Deskinn

Guests: Allegheny County Park Ranger Tyler Loper, Jamie Filipek from Allegheny County ParksFoundation, Ken Kostka, Scott Hines, Steve Hoover

Meeting was called to order at 6pm.

Treasurer's Report:

\$3,735.71 – checking; \$1,490.70 – in Parks Foundation [Dan Smith provided this information to Sharon prior to the meeting since he couldn't attend.]

New Business

- **Meeting Schedule:** Sharon asked if we'd like to cancel our November 2023 meeting since it will be dark at 6pm but the consensus was that we should not cancel. Our next meeting will be on Monday, November 20th. Tyler told us that we'll have to make sure that the non-emergency police know we'll be meeting after dark. Sharon will take care of that.
- **"It's All Good" foundation:** Steve Hoover and Scott Hines attended the meeting to ask if we'd be willing to let them do a presentation on behalf of a foundation which was created for Steve's daughter who is deceased. The foundation is called "It's All Good" and they wanted to do a presentation about the book "The Hidden Life of Trees." A tentative date of October 14, 2023 was set for the presentation and Steve was to send Dave information for a flyer which we would advertise through MailChimp. We were not able to get enough information or receive approval to hold the presentation with such short notice, so the presentation was not held. We asked Steve to attend one of our meetings next year for more discussion on this presentation.
- **Lawrenceville Cub Scouts:** An email was sent and asked if we could open the ELC on September 23rd for cub scout group from troop 73 that was planning to camp at the park that weekend. Donna Smith offered to open the ELC at 9am for an hour for the group.

Updates:

- **Programs**
Upcoming events:
-Ecological Assessment program possible dates are 1/20, 1/27 or 2/3. Jamie will check with Nicole. The date of January 27th was best for Nicole so that will be the date of the program. The presentation will take place at the ELC on 1/27/2024 at 11am.

- **Ranger Programs:** The Allegheny County Parks website has the fall ranger programs listed. The printed schedule was not done yet. Sharon will update the Friends of Harrison Hills website with links to register for these programs.

Old Business:

- **PittServes:** University of Pittsburgh will be sending 15-20 students on October 21, 2023 at 10am. We will have them paint the handicapped ramp and weed the outdoor learning center gardens and remove invasive species. We will provide pizza and drinks after they are finished. They will probably be finished around 1pm. We are also to give them an overview of what our group does. Susan/Don will direct the painting and Sharon will direct the outdoor work. Assistance from any of the others to supervise a group of students would be appreciated.

Meeting ended at 6:45pm.