

Still Creek Friends Meeting Summary

Monday, July 17, 2006

7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Greenbelt Park

Greenbelt, MD 20770

Meeting attendees:

Shobha Duncan

Bill Duncan

Fred Gasper

Michele Touchet

Lutz Rastaetter

Robin Martin (National Park Service)

Kate Levendosky (Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments)

I. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Bill Duncan welcomed the meeting attendees and asked all present to introduce themselves.

II. Articles of Incorporation Discussion

Mr. Bill Duncan reported that he compared the three sample Articles of Incorporation documents and used them to compile draft Articles of Incorporation for Still Creek Friends. Mr. Duncan read through the draft document with the group and made the following changes.

- Mr. Bill Duncan will act as the ‘Incorporator’ and ‘Resident Agent’ for the purposes of the Articles of Incorporation.
- The group agreed that the name ‘Still Creek Friends’ may cause confusion with Friends Community School, the Quaker school that is moving to the watershed. Ms. Shobha Duncan suggested that the group change its name to ‘Friends of Still Creek’ and use the acronym ‘FOSCr’ to distinguish itself from the Friends of Sligo Creek (FOSC). Due to the low meeting turnout, the group agreed to refer the question to the rest of the members via a poll on the listserve. Ms. Levendosky agreed to create the poll and give members two weeks to vote on the name change.
- Mr. Fred Gasper will be added as a member of the Board of Directors, under Article VIII.
- In the last paragraph of Article VIII, the second sentence was edited to remove a repetitious phrase. The sentence now reads “No member or director of the

Corporation shall be personally liable for the debts or obligations of the Corporation of any nature whatsoever, nor shall any of the personal property of the members or directors be subject to the payment of the debts or obligations of the Corporation of any nature whatsoever, to the fullest extent permitted under the Maryland General Corporation law as now enacted or any corresponding provision of any future law of the State of Maryland.”

- In Article IX (Officers), the group decided to state that “The officers of the Corporation shall include a president, secretary, treasurer...” Mr. Bill Duncan suggested that by listing these officers in the Articles of Incorporation, the group may not need to establish Bylaws for awhile.

Following the discussion of the Articles of Incorporation, the group discussed the next steps towards becoming an official 501(c)3. A list of the next steps follows.

- Decide on the group’s name (Ms. Levendosky will create a poll on the listserv.)
- Finalize Articles of Incorporation (Mr. Bill Duncan will finalize the document.)
- Find address (Ms. Levendosky will forward to Mr. Duncan the address to which the Articles of Incorporation should be sent.)

Mr. Bill Duncan suggested that obtaining a P.O. Box may be unnecessary for the group at this time. He said that he suspects that the group may not receive very much mail yet and that it may be more efficient if all the mail is simply sent to his address for now.

III. Upcoming Events

Electrofishing Demonstration

Ms. Kate Levendosky reported that everything is ready for the Electrofishing Demonstration scheduled for Saturday, July 29th from 10:00 a.m. – noon. She said that event participants should park at the Dogwood Trail parking lot in Greenbelt Park. There will be a short introduction at the parking lot before the group walks down to the intersection of Still Creek and Park Central Road.

Ms. Michele Touchet reported that she made up a flier for the event and posted an announcement about it in the Greenbelt News Review. Ms. Levendosky suggested that if she posted the flier on the listserv, than other members could download it and help to post it around the community.

Schrom Hills Park Clean-up

Ms. Touchet reported that she contacted Mr. Bill Phalen (Assistant Director of Public Works in Greenbelt) about holding a Schrom Hills Park Pond Clean-up this fall. She said that Mr. Phalen was very happy that the group is interested in helping to keep the pond clean and gave permission for the group to use kayaks to remove trash from the pond.

Mr. Phalen simply requested that the group notify him a week before the clean-up date so that he can let the police know that the group has permission for the clean-up.

The clean-up was scheduled for Saturday, October 7th from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

The following is a summary of the discussion about clean-ups.

- Ms. Michele Touchet asked whether the group would like to consider ‘adopting’ the pond in Schrom Hills Park and committing to clean it up about three times per year. She said that the city can only clean it up twice per year.
- Mr. Bill Duncan asked whether the group should think about cleaning up other ponds around the watershed as well.
- Ms. Touchet commented that the stormwater management pond near TGI Fridays is often full of trash. She said that TGI Fridays and the other businesses nearby should be responsible for keeping the ponds clean, but they are not doing it and until they start, the trash is going to keep on building up.
- Mr. Bill Duncan said that the group needs to develop strategies for cleaning up the ponds in the watershed, beginning by listing all of the ponds and who should be responsible for keeping them clean. He suggested one strategy for getting the businesses to commit to cleaning up the pond near TGI Fridays would be to invite the media to publicize a cleanup of the pond, ending with delivering all of the trash to the businesses.
- Mr. Fred Gasper said that he and Ms. Touchet clean the stormwater management ponds in their community, Greenbelt Lake Village, and arrange a community cleanup every year. He said that the pond at Trinity Church often is full of trash and suggested that the group could work to involve the church in clean-ups of the pond. Mr. Gasper said that he will write a letter to the church by the September meeting of Still Creek Friends.

Greenbelt Labor Day Festival

Mr. Lutz Rastaetter said that CCRIC is interested in having a booth during the Greenbelt Labor Day Festival and would like to partner with Still Creek Friends and the Beaverdam Creek Watershed Watch Group to have a ‘watershed’ booth for the whole four-day event. He showed the group a volunteer schedule that was started at the CCRIC meeting.

The following is a summary of the discussion about the Greenbelt Labor Day Festival.

- Mr. Bill Duncan said that the volunteer schedule could be put on the calendar on the listserv so that people can easily sign up to volunteer.
- Ms. Kate Levendosky volunteered to enter the schedule on the listserv calendar.
- Ms. Touchet said that she could help at the booth on Monday and volunteered to put together an insect display.
- The group agreed to partner with CCRIC on a booth at the festival. Mr. Duncan, Ms. Touchet and Mr. Gasper each donated \$20 to help pay for the booth.
- Ms. Levendosky agreed to print fliers for the booth.

Future Meetings

The group agreed to hold a meeting on Monday, August 14th to discuss plans for the Labor Day Festival. Beginning in September, meetings will be held on the third Monday of every month.

IV. Communication and Networking

Ms. Kate Levendosky passed out copies of a general flier about Still Creek Friends. Ms. Shobha Duncan and Mr. Bill Duncan volunteered to post the flier in the Greenbelt Library, the New Deal Café and the Greenbelt Co-op. Mr. Fred Gasper volunteered to post the flier in the Greenbelt Community Center, the Aquatic Center, at Safeway, Schrom Hills Park and at various locations around Greenbelt Lake Village.

Mr. Bill Duncan said that awhile ago he met a biology teach at Eleanor Roosevelt High School. He volunteered to contact her again to discuss strategies for involving ERHS students in the activities of the Still Creek Friends.

V. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at about 9:00 p.m. The next meeting will be held from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Greenbelt Park Ranger Station on August 14th.