

Antrim Creek Natural Area Commission

Dave Heeres, Chairman

Jean Engstrand

Michele Nerone

Carl Veenstra

Jacob Veenstra

Minutes April 20, 2016

Members present: Dave Heeres, Michele Nerone, Carl Veenstra, Jacob Veenstra

Members absent: Jean Engstrand

Staff present: Janet Koch

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Approval of October 28, 2015 minutes

Motion by Michele Nerone, seconded by Jake Veenstra, to approve the minutes of October 28, 2015 as presented. Motion carried – unanimous.

4. 2016 Grass River Natural Area (GRNA) Educational Programming

Janet Koch, Associate Planner, distributed the educational proposal that GRNA had provided (see **attached pg. 3**). Each program would cost \$150 for a total of \$450. The cost had been budgeted for 2016. The following programs would take place on Saturday mornings at 10:00 a.m. and would be conducted by Arlene Westhoven, GRNA Naturalist:

- Wildflower Wander at Antrim Creek OR Salamanders of Antrim Creek – Sat., July 23
- Antrim Creek Historical Geology – Saturday, August 6
- First Settlers of Antrim Creek – Saturday, August 20

Motion by Dave Heeres, seconded by Carl Veenstra, to approve the GRNA education proposal with the Salamanders of Antrim Creek program in July, with the hope that more than salamanders could be discussed. Motion carried – unanimous.

It was noted that representatives from GRNA and Antrim Creek Natural Area (ACNA) will evaluate the programs in September. A suggestion was made for programming regarding birdwatching.

5. Bench

The ACNA Commission discussed the bench and the estimated costs from Site Planning Development, Inc.

Motion by Dave Heeres, seconded by Michele Nerone, to recommend the Buildings, Lands & Infrastructure Committee approve the construction and installation of a five-foot long log bench at ACNA that will meet the equivalent of the original 2000 specifications at a not-to-exceed price of \$2,200 with the appropriate budget amendment from the fund balance of Fund #234000. Motion carried – unanimous.

6. Boat Launch Update

Ms. Koch gave an update on the improvements at the boat launch. She said the project had gone out to bid and that bids were due on April 22. Ms. Koch added that the final decision would be made by the Board of Commissioners on May 12. She said if the project moves forward, that she will inform the ACNA Commission members of the dates the work will be done.

8. Various Matters

Grading

The ACNA Commission discussed the need for grading at the north and south entrances. Their consensus was to have grading done as necessary.

Schoolhouse Property

Ms. Koch said she would send a letter to the property owner that would require a signature upon receipt if one hadn't been sent previously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

DRAFT

2016 Education Proposal for Antrim Creek Natural Area

Grass River Natural Area, Inc. (GRNA) is pleased to offer the following proposal regarding a collaborative education project with the Antrim Creek Natural Area (ACNA). We suggest a continuing program for the 2016 summer season.

EDUCATION PROGRAM (GRNA)

GRNA Naturalist, Arlene Westhoven, will conduct three programs that will focus on the unique features, plants, and history of the Antrim Creek Natural Area. Each program will include a walk and an activity relevant to the topic.

Saturday, July 23, 10:00am: "Wildflower Wander at Antrim Creek"
or "The Salamanders of Antrim Creek"

Saturday, August 6, 10:00am: "Antrim Creek Historical Geology"

Saturday, August 20, 10:00am: "The First Settlers of Antrim Creek"

FUNDING (ACNA)

Program Planning: 2.5 hours	\$40.00
Program Presentation: 2.5 hours	\$40.00
Program supplies	
Handouts/activity supplies	\$30.00
Administrative support	
Publicity, PR, flyers, registration, etc.	<u>\$40.00</u>
Total per program	\$150.00
Total for 3 programs	\$450.00

EVALUATION

In September representatives from ACNA and GRNA will meet to evaluate the programs (based on written feedback from naturalist and participants) and determine next steps.