

Friends Of Geode State Park

Minutes of the General Meeting of Friends of Geode
August 4, 2024, 3:30 pm.

Location of Meeting:

Bob Dodds Insurance meeting room
108 North Main Street
Danville, Iowa 52623

Officers present:

Mark Wesely, John Fullenkamp, Jill Fullenkamp, Doris Dickey, Michael Fortin, Sue Pratt, Mary Fortin, Dave Smith, and Drew Kuckler

Members present:

Mike Dickey, Jo Gruenther, Tyler Stigge, Ron Helling, Bill Fortin, Kathi Myers, Dave Babcock, and Tony Martinez

Welcome and Introductions:

Mark opened the meeting at 3:30 p.m. He thanked former officers Ron Helling, Bob Hesler, and Sherry Hope for serving on the Board. He welcomed the new board officers: Jill Fullenkamp; Secretary, and Mary Fortin and Sue Pratt; At Large

Secretary's Report:

Mark asked the members present if they had any objections or corrections to the May 5th, 2024 minutes that had been sent by email. There's were no changes, so Doris made a motion to approve the minutes, this was seconded by Michael, all ayes carried the motion.

Committee Reports:

1. Membership: With members Sherry, Ron, and Bob coming off the board, Jill assigned the incoming new members their contact list groups. Jill will take Sherry's list, Mary will take Ron's list and Sue will take Bob's list. This has been updated and emailed to the Executive Board members.
2. Nominating: Mark welcomed our newest Executive Board members to Friends of Geode. They are Jill Fullenkamp; Secretary, Mary Fortin; At Large, Sue Pratt; At Large.
3. Yak Attack: This event was well attended and the feedback was very positive. Games were available for the children and they all loved the free pool floats and boogie boards! We had many door prizes for the kayakers and were able to give away many nice items. It was a wonderful event and we appreciate all who came out to help make it a big success.
4. Geode Challenge Races: We have already had one planning meeting for the upcoming Geode Challenge Races event happening Saturday, October 19, 2024. This

was a big hit last year and we anticipate another successful event this year. Kathi Myers shared that nine people have already registered on the Ultra-Sign Up. She noted that the costs for the bibs have increased significantly. She is hoping to get the bibs in a more solid color than last year for easier visibility. Tony Martinez said that he gets his bibs from a company that is pretty reasonable with their prices and that he would get that information to Kathi. He is also letting us use his finish line ribbons.

Dave Smith said that he would get flyers done for this event and have them available for the next planning meeting.

Our next planning meeting to finalize things for this event will be Sunday, September, 15th, 2024 at 2 pm. Please join us at the Bob Dodds Insurance meeting room if you plan on helping out. We still need more finish line people to sign up!

5. Concessions Building: The work day that had been scheduled for August 3rd was rescheduled for Saturday, August 10, 2024 to finish putting up the stud walls and possibly start working on the doors. We are thankful to those who came to help on the July 20th work day. Much was accomplished and great progress is being made. After this Saturday's work day, we will be able to let Kirk Miller Electric come in and do the wiring. We are still hopeful for opening the building mid summer, 2025.

Permission was given by the DNR and board members for the New London Fire Department to come and blow off the dirt and debris on the outside of the building. Drew also stated that there are trees that need to be trimmed and one tree that needs removal that is hanging over the building.

Dave Smith discussed the pricing of the doors and windows and thought that these items should be ordered sooner than later as costs continue to climb. It was agreed that when the windows are installed, that the security shades should also be installed at the same time. Another work day will be scheduled when we are ready to put up fascia and guttering.

Park Updates: Drew discussed the possibility of putting in a handicap accessible dock at the main boat ramp. After having the potential spot looked at by an engineer, they determined that this area was not a viable place as the slope is greater than 4%. As a result, we are looking into putting in a handicap accessible sidewalk and dock down by the concession building area. The quotes that Drew received from this project is estimated at \$21,000. This includes a concrete sidewalk with two-kick out curb stops for anglers. The Cooper Angler Society has expressed interest in this project and would like to make a donation. Drew will contact L&W Quarries on this and Dave thought we should also check with Christensen's Contracting.

Old Business: Mark mentioned that the Fall Fun Night that was being planned for September 28th has been cancelled. The board would like to keep our activities to two

events, the Yak Attack and the Geode Challenge Races, at least while we are busy trying to get the concession building up and running. We are trying to be considerate to all our volunteers and not stretch people too thin in their services.

Friends of Geode Website: Donald Aliprandi was asked to attend our members meeting so that we could discuss what could be done to make our Friends of Geode website much more accessible and user friendly. Donald had questions and concerns regarding our current website and is offering his expertise to our group to make our social media more current and usable. Doris expressed her concerns that the costs for the website continues to rise. Donald presented a list of things he could do to improve, update, and make it simpler to use. We need to determine who owns the domain and who will be the administrator for the website. A private meeting will be set so that Donald, Dave, and Jill can work through the initial reconstruction of the website. Then, other board members who need access to the website like Kathi, for Ultra-Sign Up, will be instructed on its usage. Dave will find out information regarding the website domains and also get the current billing charges to Doris.

New Business: Firewood: Mark discussed the need for a Fall Firewood Workday. He thought that we only have maybe two fills left for the shed. This is a good problem as the sales from the firewood have been up from recent years. Tyler Stigge would like to schedule a work day in the cooler weather later in the Fall.

There was discussion about moving the location of the current cut firewood pile, which is behind the ranger's station, to the campground area for convenience sake. Drew said that he would look into it, but did not want to compromise the parking area.

Grants: John has been working with Janet Hesler regarding grant donations for our concession building project. John read the letter that was sent out to various people and businesses in the area. To date we have raised over \$70,000 towards the \$168,000 donation goal.

HyVee Donation: Every year we are blessed to receive several trees from HyVee. Mark will send out a thank you card to them and it was discussed that we could present a cedar plaque with geode to them for our appreciation. We need to send Virginia pictures for the paper and also to Dave for the Facebook page.

Recycling: John contacted Hope Haven about the possibility of not having to sort our bottles and cans before bringing them. They told him that sorting was not needed, but that we should limit the drop off amount to 5-6 bags. Our recycling bin at the campground holds about 6 bags. Drew mentioned that another bin was needed at the beach area as well. There was discussion on possible ways to make our own bin, or having Steffensmeier Welding make one. Tyler will check on using either pet panels or sheep fencing if we make one ourselves.

Mountain Bike Race: Tony and Jason have expressed interest in having a Mountain Bike Race at Geode. They felt that the Fall time is the best time of the year for this. Obviously, this year is too soon to consider this, but we will table the idea for next year. Our main goal currently is getting the concession building completed.

Next Executive Board Meeting: Monday, October 21, 2024 at 6:30 pm. Location TBD

Next General Friends of Geode Meeting: Sunday, November 3, 2024 at 2 pm.
Bob Dodds Meeting Room

Geode Challenge Race Planning Meeting: Sunday, September 15, 2024 at 2 pm.
Bob Dodds Meeting Room

Meeting adjourned at 5 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Jill Fullenkamp

Minutes approved: Date _____

Minutes approved by: Mark Wesely, President _____

Jill Fullenkamp, Secretary _____