

Minutes of the Snowmaking Committee of the Friends of Lapham Peak
Hausmann Nature Center
January 16, 2018
6:15-8:30 PM

Present: Anne Riendl, Charlie Ritter, Rich Marusinec, John McCarthy, Joanne Ziarek, Jim Bostrom, Joe Stuber, Chris Peske, Susanna and Cris Rosario

Next Meetings Reminder: January 30; February 6 & 27; March 13 & 27. Location is Hausmann Nature Center. Note the new time of 6:30-8:00PM. (Lights and heat have been requested for these dates)

Minutes of December 19 meeting approved with additions.

Introductions: All members present introduced themselves and welcomed new committee members Chris Peske, Susanna and Cris Rosario. All are active in the Nordic skiing community and their input and participation are very welcome.

Use of Volunteer Crew for snowmaking and grooming: Rich M. gave a brief report noting that volunteers had contributed 357 hours this season to training, making snow, and snow cat usage. He also noted that 60% more snow was made this year and of better quality. The 2 new snow making guns purchased for this season and the dedicated volunteers contributed to the wider trails and ongoing improvements. He will present a summary report at the end of the season.

ROA: The survey for the Lower Lake Michigan Coastal Region was completed January 5, 2018. Results from the DNR to be published in the future.

Outdoor Brochure Holder: Charlie R. will check with his realtor contacts to obtain these. Anne R. also provided a website in case we wish to order them.

Penguin Pal Campaign: Business donors have sponsored all five of the available large wooden penguins that have been placed on the trail. Jim B. is ordering the printed signs to be placed on the trail with the specific penguin for each business as he receives the needed information. Penguin Pal 1 inch stickers are in the park entrance office in envelopes with individual donor name to be picked up by donors. Donors to be notified via e-mail thank you and possibly e-mail blast or other methods.

Penguin Pal/Fund Raising Awareness: Suggestions were discussed of quick and simple ways to raise awareness of the need for funding for snowmaking. Rich M. presented a sample of a small flyer that can be placed on vehicle windshields, especially on a weekend when the parking lots have been full. Another option is to have volunteers hand out flyers at some point as people arrive to ski and collect donations or provide envelopes for mail-in donations. Susanna and Cris R. volunteered to be at Lapham Peak January 20 for the Lapham Loppet from 8:00-10:30AM to collect donations, hand out flyers, and place flyers on car windshields. Rich M. will have the flyers available for use on January 20.

Penguin Pal Campaign Web Site Additions: The name of the artist for the penguins is Kiley Shramek and recognition of her work will be added to the web site. There is now an online Penguin Pal donation button on: <http://www.laphampeaksnowmaking.org>

Posts on SE WI Lapham Trail conditions: It was noted that DNR staff are monitoring posts and have removed those that contain inaccurate information.

WE Energies Letter: This annual letter is sent warning of high electrical usage generated by snow making operations. Rich M. will follow up to verify that this is a short-term situation.

Miller Bradford Invoice for Summer Snow Cat Repairs: Joe S. reported that the estimate was reduced by \$2000 and he is awaiting the final bill. Batteries and a fuel filter were purchased recently. It was noted that Beattle and Mark Janis have logged 89 hours on the snow cat thus far.

Ornaments: The 20+ ornaments from past years are for sale in the park entrance office. Charlie R. is monitoring sales.

FLP-DNR Agreement/MOU: John M. reported that the agreement was discussed at the January 4 FLP board meeting. He will compile any comments received by January 11 and send them to Janet Hutchens. The MOU for snow making is a separate document and John is still waiting for feed-back from the DNR.

Publicity for Lapham Peak Winter Activity: The Waukesha Freeman printed an article about winter activities on January 5, 2018, and the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel published articles on January 7, 2018. Anne R. contacted Tess at Outdoor Wisconsin about a possible segment with Dan Small. This is on hold for now as they are currently in negotiations with public television about the future of the next season.

Topics for Discussions with Current Property Manager/Anne Korman: A lengthy discussion was held about various topics and the most effective way to proceed. It was decided that Anne R. will contact Anne K. to clarify that we would like to continue the collaborative efforts of snowmaking with the DNR to provide the best possible skiing experience for the park visitors. There have been many positive responses to the wider trails, better snow, and good grooming with happy skiers enjoying the man-made loop as the only place to ski in southeastern Wisconsin so far this year.

Local Legislators: Charlie R., Anne R., and Joe S. will follow up on their initial contacts to encourage support for snow making.

Pie Charts of Income Sources: Anne R. showed a sample of the total income sources combined into 8 categories and will present several different summary formats for the next meeting.

Miscellaneous: Holiday cards to donors that were returned by the USPS as undeliverable will be re-sent. Theresa learned that all vendors selling items at the bike swap on June 2, 2018, must submit a completed vendor form to the Lapham Peak property manager by some time in April. Louise B. has been helping Theresa navigate the required DNR paperwork. Anne R. distributed reimbursement checks from the FLP to Joe S., Charlie R. and herself that the treasurer Dan W. had written at the January 4 FLP board meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Joanne Ziarek