

**Manchester Parks Foundation Board of Directors Meeting**  
**April 14, 2014 – CONC**

**Members Present:** Chair Sharon Hughes, Vice-chair Bill Skinner, Secretary Donna Davis, Ellen Frey, Ellen Rugemer, Barbara Trump, Robin Fishpaw

**Guests Present:** Mr. Bob Clark

**Call to Order:** by Chair Sharon Hughes at 7:05 PM.

**Minutes:** A motion was made by Ellen Rugemer to accept the minutes for the March meeting. Motion seconded by Ellen Frey. Minutes accepted as presented.

**Treasurers Report:** Treasurer Marcia Bogash was not present but provided members with a detailed written report for March 2014. Income: \$1,044.85. Out-flow: \$335.70. Balance: \$8,253.75.00. A motion was made by Barb Trump to accept the Treasures report. The motion was seconded by Ellen Frey and passed.

**Naturalists Report:** No report.

**PR:** no report

**Guest Presentation:** Bob Clark made a presentation on the Amalemma that he is installing at Hoffman's Ice Cream Store. Mr. Clark made a proposal to the Board to install one of these devices on the grounds of the nature center. The Amalemma is a device that was used to track the seasons using the location of the Earth's path around the Sun. It consists of a pole 8 ft tall which casts a shadow on stones set at points into the ground. The points established will form the figure 8. The tracking needs to be done at one to two week intervals throughout a full year to form the figure 8. The Board briefly discussed the proposal. As an alternative to the 8 ft. pole, it may be possible to erect a 2 to 3 ft. pole on top of the picnic pavilion and to use the old Baltimore street cobblestones for the markers. Mr. Clark also mentioned that the Westminster Astronomical Society is looking for a home for a 9-inch telescope. The scope would need to be housed in a shed approximately 9 ft. long, 6 ft. high and 4ft. wide. The Board elected to discuss both proposals in greater detail at a future meeting.

**Resignation:** Chair Sharon Hughes submitted her resignation letter as Board member and Chair. She said that at this time she is still able to continue to administer the website. She cannot continue to edit and write the newsletter but she will publish it for the remainder of the year using content submitted to her. She will also assist with the transition of the position to the new Chair.

**Programs:**

April 12 - Egg Hunt: Attendance was approximated at 200 children. Barb T. Ellen F. and Ellen R. reported that the morning went very well and all the kids got plenty of eggs.

May 3 Workday- preparation for SpringFest will begin at 9AM. Barb Trump and Marcia Bogash are donating two whiskey barrel halve planters to be placed in the front of the nature center. Barb T. will donate flowers for the planter. The Foundation will supply the potting soil. Donna Davis. will locate tall stakes for the parking fence.

May 4 SpringFest – Members will meet at 9AM. Springfest opens at 12. Ellen Frey listed the following participant confirmations received since the March report: Maria Myers (County Recycling program), Fire Dept., Police. Steve Miller has graciously granted permission to place a sign on his front lawn again this year. Ellen F. prepared a draft of the events schedule. We will have a 50/50 raffle. There will also be members assigned as floaters to relieve people assigned to stations. In the event of inclement weather, Ellen Rugemer., Ellen F. and Robin Fishpaw. will make the decision to cancel and phone the vendors.

Bocce Ball- Bill S. has received \$300. for the tournament.

Fishing Tournament: cancelled

**Facilities:**

May 3- 9AM: SpringFest work day.

Spring Tree Planting: Bill Skinner will pick up the 20 tremendous trees, mulch, tree stakes and tree guards.

Building: Bill Skinner. handed out an update of his building sketch. Bill reported that he has contacted an architect to get a price quote for services and that Steve Miller is setting up a meeting to locate the septic system.

Maintenance- Bill Skinner and Donna Davis will meet to start hazard tree identification on the trails.

**Other Business:**

- The Board briefly discussed discontinuing the paper copy of the newsletter and going fully digital, printing about 100 copies for the libraries. No final decision was made.
- Ellen Frey will put a shout-out on Facebook for volunteers. Ellen Rugemer will make a volunteers wanted page to hand out at SpringFest.

With no other business, Barbara Trump made a motion to adjourn at 9:00 PM. Ellen Rugemer seconded. The next meeting will be 7:00 PM, Monday, May 12, 2014, at the **Nature Center.**