

Friends of Midway State Park

Summary of August 7, 2010

Attending: Gail Meilstrup, Ren Collins, Maureen Collins, Irene Terreberry, Bob Terreberry, Julie Reece, Kathie McCarthy, Bob Wooler, Ryan Sullivan, Pat Locke, Bill Locke, Randy Hallberg, Ray Munson, Dalton Burgett, Dick VanBelzen, Case VanBelzen, Virginia Carlson, Steve Hayes, Sandy McClain, Tom McClain, Karl Sparn, Kimberley Lombardo, Norman Carlson.

- Dalton Burgett, Regional Board of Commissioners for Parks (Allegany Region), was introduced and made opening remarks, expressing the appreciation of the Commissioners for what the Friends were doing for Midway. The theme of partnership with the state was expressed.
- The proposed Mission Statement for the friends was distributed and approved without changes:

The Friends of Midway State Park is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to work with the state of New York to promote, preserve, maintain, and financially support this historic amusement park that has been enjoyed by children of all ages since 1898.

The Friends pursue this mission by:

- Serving as ambassadors and advocates for the park in the wider community by recruiting friends and volunteers, developing corporate and community partners, and networking with the talent, knowledge, and enthusiasm that is needed to keep the park relevant and vital.
- Raising funds to support specific projects through membership, donations, events, grant writing, and other fund development efforts.
- Striving through volunteer service to preserve, maintain, and interpret the historic character and natural beauty of the park.

-
- Draft By-laws were distributed and key points where consideration was needed and choices had to be made were considered. By consensus the group approved:
 - Members would be those paying an annual membership fee. \$25 for individuals/families was suggested. Other categories of membership with higher amounts were suggested and will be elaborated in a draft membership brochure.
 - There will be no less than 7 and no more than 15 Directors, nominated by the members for an election at the Annual Meeting (August). Directors should be nominated from the (dues-paying) membership. Directors will then elect their officers (President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer).

- Terms of Directors will be for two years and Directors can serve a maximum of three terms (6 years). In the future, consideration will be given to staggered terms (some two years, some three years), so the full board does not turn over at once.
- The Board will meet six times annually: February, May, June, July, August, and November. Participation by teleconference is OK.
- The end of the Fiscal Year will be December 31. (Some consideration was given to March 31 to coincide with the state, but it was decided to change it later if there were good reasons to change.)
- The following individuals had expressed interest in initial Board membership (a provisional term for incorporation purposes until the first election in 2011):
 - Bob Wooler
 - Kathie McCarthy
 - Walter Kehoe
 - Priscilla Kehoe
 - Steve Hayes
 - Randy Hallberg
 - Karl Sparn
 - Pat Locke
 - Bill Locke
 - Mark Perry
 - Debbie Perry
 - Julie Reece

(There was an inconclusive discussion about the advisability of having so many couples as Board members in that it might not encourage enough divergent thinking. This will be sorted out in talking to those who expressed interested but were not present at the meeting. The list will be finalized at the next meeting.)

The following activities will be pursued for the remainder of 2010:

- Filing a Certificate of Incorporation with the State.
- Pursuing 501c3 tax-exempt status through an application to the IRS.
- Developing a website with interactive features and donation and membership acceptance capabilities.
- Developing a brochure and a membership campaign letter and a list of addresses to solicit for membership.
- Developing a list of priorities to discuss in a “statement of activities” in the IRS application. The park’s 10 year Master Plan will be distributed prior to the next meeting to help generate ideas that will shape priorities.
- A draft brochure and membership solicitation letter will also be considered at the next meeting.

The next meeting was set for Saturday, August 28 at Midway Park at 4 pm. We will coordinate with Andy Hillman, Park Manager, in the meantime.