

**2019 Friends of Midway State Park Annual Meeting
September 1st, 2019, 1:30 pm, Midway State Park**

The Friends of Midway State Park 2019 Annual meeting was called to order by Friends President, Bob Wooler, followed by attendee introductions. Approximately 20 in attendance.

The following items were discussed:

- New Rides Campaign:

\$90,000 of \$115,000 goal raised to date by Midway. (Individual, corporate, and foundation donations) Friends will accept challenge of raising the final \$25,000. (\$5,000 through grant applications, \$10,000 through individual leadership match pledges to facilitate the final \$10,000 of the campaign) Friends 2020 New Rides Campaign printed material to be ready in October. Recognition for leadership group donors.

- New Rides Progress:

Concrete work for both rides (ferris wheel & twister) to be done this fall with installation of ferris wheel in early spring. Twister will need more work to be done prior to installation. Individual car sponsorship (\$2,500) is complete for ferris wheel (12 cars total). Individual car sponsorship (\$2,500) is still open for twister (8 cars total). Westfield (NY) and Portage Trail Garden groups plan a NEW RIDES FUNDRAISING EVENT for Sept. 25th, 4 pm, in the Sunset Room. \$25.00/person, a High Tea with refreshments. To make your reservation, contact Christine Struba, 703-431-2397.

- Park Updates: (Danielle Dewey, Marla Connelly)

2016: Carousel internal workings rebuilt, structural improvements made; Little Dipper Coaster renovated and relocated in park.

2017: New ticket booth; Underground sewer lines; Begin new electrical service to park; plan for future restrooms (waiting on funding); Tilt-A-Whirl internal workings rebuilt

2018: Work continues on new 800 amp electrical service to park; new electrical building; replace aluminum wiring with copper; Roadway Car Ride totally renovated to include now gravel base followed by concrete roadways.

2019: Gift shop and museum renovated and expanded; 2 new arcade games; Sunset Room opened (room rentals available); current SALE in Gift Shop - 25 to 40% off on certain items.

2020: Several new items for Gift Shop; Historic signage throughout park planned (individual ride history signage; overall park history signage); Playground planned for future, location to be mid-park, currently where gravel overflow parking lot is located. Hope to offer expanded weeks and hours in spring & fall, and encourage family attendance.

Fall Festival: Planned for mid-October 2019, exact date and times to be determined...admission to be by ticket, carousel open, games, etc.

Arcade & Hippodrome: These are major projects. Both included in the park's Master Plan. Work will depend on funding available from Albany. Eventually, a new location is planned for the Arcade. (Master Plan is available on-line.)

Go-Kart: Track activity is good. Future plans for go-kart expansion to be announced.

Golf Course: Activity is slow, especially in the later evening hours. Course will not be open in September, and 2020 hours will be determined at a later date. Park staff maintenance of course is demanding and requires a lot of time. Volunteer help is appreciated. (To volunteer, stop by the park office and fill out the annual volunteer application.) Thanks to Friends volunteers for their work in prior years.

Revenue balanced between Gift Shop, Arcade, ride revenue, and Mini Golf; attendance down in 2019 due to mixed weather. Group & corporate rentals are available for several of the park's major attractions.

Future rides will be "family friendly". Bumper Boats waiting for demolition approval, area may be turned into a courtyard area.

New NYS Parks Commissioner named: Erik Kulleseid More information on Mr. Kulleseid at:
<https://parks.ny.gov/about/biography.aspx><https://parks.ny.gov/about/biography.aspx>

Crane in arcade is VERY popular. Old crane is not repairable. Waiting for approval and funding to replace with new machine.

2020 Easter Egg Hunt (very popular in 2019) will be scheduled for the weekend AFTER Easter.

- Miscellaneous:

An email group was suggested to improve communication between Friends of Midway State Park members.

An annual membership program was also suggested.

Joint advertising and marketing for the Golf Course (and possibly other park attractions) will be discussed between Friends and park management for 2020.

Meeting adjourned 2:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Locke, Treasurer