

Friends of Midway State Park

Summary of July 9, 2011 Members Meeting

Attending: Bob Wooler, Priscilla and Walt Kehoe, John Michael, Bob Reynolds, Kathie McCarthy, Sharon and Peter Bartram, Ren and Maureen Collins, Bill and Dee Armstrong, Kate Gross, Bob Terreberry, and Pat Locke.

News and Updates

- The July 4 Fireworks were a great success this year. Attendance at the park was estimated at 6,000 and positive reviews were received by many. The Friends and the State each contributed \$3,000 to support the show. A wide-ranging discussion about when to have the Fireworks show in 2012 came about because the 4th falls on a Wednesday. Consensus in the meeting opted for the show on Wednesday, July 4. An extra \$1,000 for more radio promotion of the event is a priority for 2012.
- The Maple Springs Garden Walk raised approximately \$1,400 for the Carousel Restoration Fund. Other fundraiser ideas include a house tour and a Long Point-Midway-Long Point 5K race. Kate Gross will discuss the race with Bob Rappole.

Skee Ball Rollathon Fundraiser

- The event is set for Sunday, July 24 from Noon to 5 pm and despite evident verbal interest, no one has committed their team of four to a half hour time slot in writing. E-blast reminders will go out and we will hope for a good walk-up trade that day. Depending on how busy we are, we may need extra lane monitors and scorekeepers. Volunteers for any part of that afternoon and those who secured items for the Chinese Auction were asked to check in with Bob Wooler by Saturday the 23rd.

Carousel Restoration

- Bob has spoken to the Arts Council for Chautauqua County about partnering in the restoration of the rounding boards, but we are now awaiting word from the state on whether the carousel is to be restored to 1946 specification with original Herschell designs, or 1996 specs with the local scenic panels.
- As a premium for large donation sponsorships of horse restorations, the group discussed giving polo shirts that the Kehoes had designed and produced. It was decided to order a range of sizes and sell the shirts for \$35 each as well as offer them as gifts for large sponsorships donations in the horse restoration campaign. Kate is waiting on restoration pricing from a potential vendor.

Other Restoration Priorities

- Bob raised the issue of keeping Friends' restoration priorities in sync with the state's timetable for work, as interest in other projects – the train, sponsorships for various rides, and mini-golf course, and the hippodrome – was racing ahead. All agreed that it would be important to work

together on projects as fundraising, the state budget, and staff and volunteer energy permitted. In addition, Kate added that the acquisition of potential used (new to Midway) rides – a Ferris Wheel and a Kiddie Paratrooper ride were mentioned – might be possible. A capital campaign would likely be required for the restoration of the hippodrome.

Couples Reunion Day – August 20

- Promotion will begin in earnest after the July 24 Skee Ball event. We will try to interest radio in doing a live remote. A photographer possibility will be pursued by Kate, as one will be working the park on other business. Bob will set up a story booth for the recording of Midway stories by couples in attendance that day. Concessions will be approached to provide a grilled main item for food and the event. The park may stay open a little later that day to accommodate the event.
- The next meeting of the Friends of Midway will be on Saturday, August 20 at 3 pm prior to the Couples Reunion Event. Among the items to be accomplished at that meeting will be the election of the Board of Directors for 2011-2012. A nominating committee consisting of Kathie McCarthy, Bob Wooler, Sharon Bartram, Ren Collins, Pat Locke, and Walt Kehoe will meet in Maple Springs over the next month to consider a slate of directors for presentation at the meeting.
