

## **Friends of Midway State Park**

### **Summary of the Annual Meeting of the Members**

#### **August 31, 2014 at Midway State Park**

Bob Wooler called the meeting to order at 2 pm under a deluge of rain in the park's Pavilion #5. The 22 members in attendance introduced themselves and Bob began with an overview of the year's activities:

- The carousel restoration has been completed and it has been performing to rave reviews. As a final touch, the park will be installing the remaining LED lights on the rounding boards and sconces. The Friends have had some comments about the deterioration of some of the sponsorship labels which were affixed to the back of each sponsored horse's saddle. The Friends plan to pursue a more durable product with Hanson Sign. The Kehoes will invest in a stock of 15 replacement reins, should they be needed. The Friends will send a card to thanks to the park employee who took so much care with the carousel music during the year.
- Park Manager Kate Gross offered a list of improvements the park would be undertaking in the off-season: pouring a concrete pad for the helicopters and Kiddie Coaster and conducting painting on Tubs of Fun, the bumper boats, the Tilt-A-Whirl, the kiddie boats, the Sky Fighters, Water Wars, and the Bumper Car building. The exterior of the arcade will be finished and new pavilions will be erected. A new clutch will be put in the train, and new gift shop items based on iconic park features have been ordered. About 50 ties have to be replaced on the railroad to stabilize the track.
- The question was asked about the status of the new train station. It will hopefully be built stages over the winter pending the availability of funds. The acquisition of used period rides has been problematic for the state since they are limited to paying appraised value, so ride acquisition could be an activity area for the Friends. Priorities for acquisition include the Scrambler, the Paratrooper, and a small 10 car Ferris Wheel.
- However, the next priority for the Friends is partnering in the construction of a new mini-golf course. Designs and potential partner construction firms have been studied over the summer and an implementation and business plan should be put together in September with at least some work taking place over the winter to salvage some hope of using the new course in 2015. The Friends would be lining up hole sponsorships at \$2500 to \$3000 per hole. More will be discussed regarding strategy and tactics for this work this fall.

- The Friends have recently conducted a member survey regarding the Arcade and have found that users want a greater emphasis on maintenance of games and that a healthy mix of new and retro games fits the park atmosphere best. There was also encouragement in the survey to brighten up and liven up the atmosphere in the arcade with sounds, bright colors, mirrors, and the like. The park has determined some priorities for the acquisition of new attractions (new to us, but used): a pinball machine, a skeeball machine, a customized coin pusher, and a riding video game. As these are in the \$2,500 to \$4,000 price range, they are possible targets for Friends of Midway mini-campaigns or charitable purchases by a benefactor.

Historic Preservation Grants will also be a priority now for both the park and the Friends of Midway to pursue and attain restoration objectives.

Joe Thoman presented the Friends of Midway financials from September 1, 2013 through August 31, 2014. This covered the carousel restoration campaign for which the Friends brought forward nearly \$34,000 in sponsorships and donations and spent almost \$31,000 on the carousel and train projects, leaving a balance of just over \$3,000, most all of which was committed to paying for this year's share for the July 4 Fireworks. Next year, the park and the Friends plan to split the cost at a lesser amount, around \$4,000, which will still buy a show of fairily moderate height and about 15-18 minutes in length.

Bob Wooler asked for the nomination of the slate of Directors to form the Board of the Friends of Midway State Park for the next year, The slate of

Sharon Bartram  
Priscilla Kehoe  
Walt Kehoe  
Bill Locke  
Pat Locke  
Kathleen McCarthy  
Robert Reynolds  
Joe Thoman  
Sarah Trantum  
Robert Wooler

was nominated by Binnie Kurtzner, seconded by Bob Terreberry, and elected unanimously. Following some concluding comments and some dialogue with Barrie Yochim who was in attendance for the meeting, a motion to adjourn was entertained and approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bob Wooler, for the Friends of Midway State Park