

## ***Friends of Midway State Park***

### ***Minutes of the Board of Directors – March 31, 2012***

Attending: Matt Hamilton-Kraft, Pat Locke, Bill Locke, Kathie McCarthy, Kate Gross, Bob Wooler, Bob Reynolds, and Walt Kehoe.

Bob Wooler opened the meeting at the Bemus Point Library by reviewing the logistics for “I Love My Park Day”, the statewide mobilization of volunteers to spruce up state parks which is set for May 5. At Midway, we will be concentrating on painting the exterior of the arcade building and doing some gardening and landscaping. We are still waiting for confirmation of Home Depot’s donation of paint. In addition to the membership mailing and an e-blast to our list, we will try to mobilize more volunteers with articles in the Gazette and Post-Journal, perhaps the Pennysaver. Strategic outreach to youth groups such as the one at the Methodist church is also important. Hours for the effort on May 5 will be 9 am – 4 pm.

Kate Gross has reserved several dates on the Midway calendar for Friends activities:

Skee Ball tourney – July 29

Carousel -theme reunion – August 18

Friends Day – June 2

Jamestown Rotary will partner with FOMSP to run its own Skee Ball tourney on Wednesday, June 27 from 4 to 8 pm. This will help build membership and interest in the Friends.

Midway is also planning two Friday night “lights on” events – June 29 and July 6.

Discussion next turned to the status of various painting projects:

The Friends’ signature project for the winter of 2011 -2012 has been the restoration and repainting of the Chautauqua Choo-Choo which will be completed and ready for its inaugural circuit on Wednesday, May 23. The Friends will invite all donors to ride at the event and will reach out to the press for coverage. Donated ice cream will sweeten the event. Bob will speak with Dave Ward about the dimensions and characteristics of the recognition plaques for the \$500 donors.

The state budget will allow the train station to be rebuilt in the fall, and the master plan for the park calls for an additional station in the future. Walt Kehoe would like to pursue sponsorship by Lionel and will reach out to them in New York City. The exchange for

sponsorship could take many forms – billboards by the tracks, tunnels en route, and the new station. Co-sponsorship via a link to local hobby shops is also a possibility.

The status of other painting projects that are being planned is:

- + The Sky Fighters are a priority for this year. The cost will be \$300 for each of 8 sky fighters. 4 will be done in primary colors, 4 in a special black and white Herschell design.
- + The helicopters are next on the agenda for 2013.
- + The park has taken care of the boats and will be relocating that ride to the site of the new poured pad.

Kate gave an update on the status of the carousel renovation. Plans for the work are proceeding and the replacement of piers, the roof, and windows will begin during this park season and continue through the fall and winter so that in 2013 the carousel can return to the roundhouse. This will add impetus to the drive to sponsor the repainting of horses @ \$2,000 each, a \$60,000 campaign that the Friends will have to undertake through grants and individual donors, together with state support.

The prospect of pursuing larger grants to support the restoration and interpretation activities at the park led to Matt Hamilton-Kraft urging us partner with history organizations (Fenton) to lead interpretation activities with displays, signage, stories, archives, and the like.

Kate also spoke about her interest in pulling the village of Bemus Point closer into the Midway orbit, possibly by loaning iconic pieces of the collection out during the off-season: Ride the Champion, Little Pro, the old Dodg-Em car, etc. This could go to the library, the elementary school, the Lawson Center, etc.

Ray Munson will not be returning to the park this year, creating a potential void in the maintenance and repair of rides and arcade games. The Friends will need to be part of a general mobilization of maintenance volunteers who can form a network to assist with what Ray has repaired and maintained over the years.

As an incentive to renew memberships for 2012, the Friends will offer 10% discounts on season passes to the park to its members. The Friends will also set up our polo shirt sales at key event times this summer to assist with the carousel drive.

Finally, there was some general discussion about the food vendor for this year and strategies for improvement in this area.

In FOMSP organizational work, Matt Hamilton-Kraft was appointed Treasurer by consensus of those in attendance.

The next meeting of the Friends of Midway State Park was tentatively set for May 19, 2012.