

## Friends of Midway State Park

### Annual Meeting Summary: September 4, 2016

Bob Wooler opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and offering an overview of the agenda. To summarize Friends business, Bob distributed a financial report covering the two years of fundraising and expense activity for the Putt-A-Round Chautauqua mini-golf course. Total grants and donations amounted to \$266,055 and total expenses were \$266,801, leaving \$2,341 as the Friends of Midway fund balance at the end of the project. Next, Bob shared statistics gathered from the park on numbers of players and amount of money raised for the purchase of future rides and attractions from the proceeds from evening play. The number of rounds played totaled 5,713 while the total dollars raised from evening play, not including the deduction of labor costs, amounted to just over \$5,500.

Since the Friends are charged with the responsibility of purchasing rides and attractions that fit with the park's restoration themes from the profits of evening play, together with ongoing fundraising, discussion next turned to which rides would be priorities. Consensus, based on demand, fit the park objectives, and price was for a ferris wheel, with future consideration of a Scrambler or a Paratrooper. Members were asked to look for good condition used rides over the winter.

To boost evening play and generate more funding for ride purchases, Chuck Ludwig suggested the Friends organize golf leagues and tournaments among business and social groups, tavern-goers, and even youth groups. This suggestion was warmly received and added to the Friends' agenda for this winter season.

Marla Connelly, park manager, sought the group's input on when to schedule fireworks whenever July 4 falls on a Monday or Tuesday, like it does in 2017 (days when the park is normally closed.) She then offered the following updates on park plans and priorities:

- The Hippodrome (Roller Skating Rink) is plagued by structural weakness that the park is addressing through their capital budget year by year. Overall, restoration of the structure will take over five years and cost \$5 to 7 million.
- The park hopes to continue and increase Chautauqua Belle steamship activity in 2017 and eventually make Midway the ship's home port.
- The park hopes to plan and promote more events next year to drive more attendance.
- The kiddie coaster is being moved to a concrete pad near the mini-golf course and will be rehabilitated for 2017.
- The carousel's top cables and supports will be tightened and strengthened.

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- Tubs o' Fun and the Roto-Whip will be painted and overhauled.
- The women's restroom will get a new tile floor.
- Maintenance will be moved from the Hippodrome to another corner of the park.
- Longer term, when they can be connected to sewer, building restrooms at the park's upper level will be a priority.

Following a question and answer period focusing on maintenance and the future of the arcade, the meeting adjourned for a tour of the Sunset function room.

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