

ROCKCASTLE KARST CONSERVANCY, INC.
RKC

Minutes of Meeting, March 10, 2006
Held at Erlanger Branch of Kenton County Public Library
Scheduled for 5:00 p.m.

Powerpoint for RKC demonstrated

Meeting called to order at approx. 5:17 p.m.

In attendances:

Andy Niekamp
Werner Jud
Neena Jud
Bob Dobbs
Ron Crawford
Jerry Brandenburg
Emily Brandenburg
Jarrett Brandenburg

Pete Stow
Chloe Thorner
Lisa Pruitt-Thorner
JoEtta Hutson
Pat Hutson
Bill Addington
David Lee
Nick Addington

Andy Niekamp thanked everyone for attending. Scheduling of the meeting was difficult but worked out well.

Andy gave a report of RKC activities to date:

- a. Sink's of Roundstone. Accomplished with satisfaction, media attention, sold \$239.00 of trash to help support cleanup costs. Allen Blair had put together media package. Mt. Vernon Signal listed names of participants.
- b. Bluegrass Grotto donated \$100; DUG donated \$250.00 in Joe Windows name, \$500.00 donation from Huntsville grotto. Dick Blenz donated \$1,000.00 to RKC!
- c. RKC acquired a display case for \$245.00. Rob Coomer did an excellent layout for the display case and the presentation looks very professional.
- d. RKC accepted by IRS as a 501(c)(3) tax exempt charitable organization. In late November, 2005, after many calls by Andy to IRS, RKC received a letter from the IRS agent, Aletha Bolt. Ms. Bolt requested clarification of 7 points, most of which surrounded some information from the RKC website, including conservation easements. Several board members and officers met to discuss RKC response to letter and a timely

and well written letter was drafted by Andy and sent to Ms. Bolt. On January 20, 2006, RKC became an approved 501(c)(3) charity, with some retroactivity. Therefore, some donations made prior to January 20, 2006 are still tax deductible. You may review the IRS approval letter for more information.

A discussion was had concerning the forms which did/did not have to be filed annually with the IRS.

- e. Huntsville-DUG outing scheduled for GSP, same date as rotunda climb.

Other Officer Reports

- a. Vice Chair, Pat Hutson reported about his/Werner's efforts to find a 5th director.

- b. Treasurer, Werner Jud. Talked to Gary Miracle about RKC. Suggested Buzz Carloftis, Co. Judge Exec for Rockcastle County. Other ideas for 5th director were Roger Haley, chair of SCCI and Horton Hobbs.

Werner gave treasurer's report, reported that we have \$10,297.40.

- c. Secretary, Lisa Pruitt-Thorner. Minutes read from August 31, 2005 meeting.

Officer Elections

Unanimously, officers reelected for past positions as follows:

Andy Niekamp - Chairperson
Pat Hutson - Vice Chairperson
Werner Jud - Treasurer
Lisa Pruitt-Thorner- Secretary

Confirmed Appointments

Newsletter editor - Richard Van Arsdel
Tammy Otten- Education Committee chair
JoEtta Hutson - Fund Raising Committee chair

Membership Update/Other matters

85 individual members
16 life
4 supporting
6 organizational

RKC presence at caving events discussed, T shirts left, fund raising ideas were not discussed as time was limited.

Did not have time to discuss future compliance with IRS requirements, save for later date, discussed whether RKC and GSP should be an NSS conservancy. Lisa passed out handouts outlining board member duties, 501(c)(3) rules, fund raising ideas, etc.

Transfer of Property to RKC

Andy discussed telephone conversation with Ellie Schiller from the Felburn Foundation. The Felburn Foundation felt it necessary to get a certified appraisal which needs to be conducted by a certified general appraiser. There was discussion about insurance, surveys, boundaries, and there were questions about whom we could find to do such an appraisal. RKC felt it necessary to have an appraisal, although not necessary for the property transfer. RKC board voted unanimously to pay for ½ of the appraisal cost.

Andy mentioned that a conference call with Ellie Schiller and Mark Moore would be held on Monday, March 13 at 7:00 p.m. All encouraged to attend.

Much discussion was had concerning the GSP Committee - how and what role will it have? Andy suggested we implement the karst conservancy model. Bill Addington asked what role will the GSP committee chair have. Discussion surrounded what interest the grottos, particularly GCG, would continue to have in GSP. For example, could there still be a lease? A management agreement, memo of understanding, etc.? Lisa Pruitt-Thorner said that based on her understanding of the Felburn Foundation's wishes, based on the 501(c)(3) application and land ownership principles, it wouldn't be advisable for RKC to acquire the land and then turn around and lease it back to GCG. RKC then would be, in some way, divesting itself of the very asset it had just acquired. However, it is important to maintain GCG and the other grotto's management, access to and interest in GSP.

Andy said very enthusiastically that GCG can and should always be a dominant force in the management of GSP. All those who have helped out at GSP and enjoyed GSP will continue to do so. RKC will continue to honor GCG and the other grottos participation, volunteer time, efforts, interest and enjoyment of the property in every way possible. Bob Dobbs said that GCG members hoped to have a new lease with RKC because having a lease allows GCG to have a feeling a ownership and pride. Pat Hutson and all RKC board members assured those in attendance that the way GSP is managed will continue in the future; it's just that legally, an actually lease might not be advisable.

Andy told those in attendance to please attend the conference call and ask the

Felburn Foundation any questions or address any concerns you have.

The next meeting was scheduled for April 23, 2006 at 2:00 p.m., presumably at the same place.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Recorded and prepared by:
Lisa Pruitt-Thorner
RKC Secretary