

**Rockcastle Karst Conservancy**  
**General Meeting – March 5, 2017**  
Final Minutes

**In Attendance 3/5/17:**

**Directors:** Sean Cain, Werner Jud, Janice Gott, Bob Roth. (A quorum does exist.)  
Tammy Otten was absent.

**Others:** Neena Jud & Bob Dobbs were present. Gary Bush & Jerry Brandenburg attended by phone. Dana Sutherland attended part of the meeting by phone.

45th Meeting of the Rockcastle Karst Conservancy was held at the Burlington Library, Burlington, KY. Called to Order by Chair Sean Cain at 2:13 PM.

(Meeting Agenda at end of Minutes.)

**Announcements:**

**New Board Positions:**

The Board welcomes Bob Roth from Bluegrass Grotto to the Board, and thanks Steve Gentry for three years of service on the Board. All Board members retained their former positions, with Bob Roth taking the Member-at-large position. Committee Chairs remained the same.

Chair: Sean Cain

Vice Chair: Tammy Otten

Secretary: Janice Gott

Treasurer: Werner Jud

Membership/Message Committee: Tammy Otten

GSP Committee: Jerry Brandenburg

Misty Cave Committee: Sean Cain

Cornhole Cave Committee: Mary Gratsch

Skylight Dome Committee: Howard Kalnitz resigning

[new Co-Chairs Dana Sutherland & Thor Bahrman –see below].

**Secretary's Report:** (Submitted by J. Gott)

Read summary of Minutes of Meeting of 12/11/16.

**MOTION: Motion to accept the Minutes of 12/11/16. (W. Jud, B. Roth 2nd, 4-0-0)**

**Treasurer's Report:** (Submitted by W. Jud)

Current Fiscal Year details are in the March 5, 2017 Balance Sheet and December 11, 2016 thru March 5, 2017 Revenue and Expenditures Report. Dinner in the Mountain revenues were split between GSP and the Skylight Preserve Acquisition Fund, and dispersed to those accounts. New donations are beginning to replenish the Cave Acquisition Fund. Life Membership funds in the Fidelity Mutual Account have been increasing in value.

**MOTION: To accept the Treasurer's Report and Life Member Fund Report as provided (J. Gott, B. Roth 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4-0-0).**

**Committee Reports:**

(A) Membership/Message Committee: (J. Gott)

1. Holiday postcard with Skylight Dome picture on it was mailed out in December.
2. Spring newsletter will be sent with membership renewal appeal. It will also be sent to Skylight donors, landowners and other interested parties. Target goal for submitting newsletter content to Gary Bush is March 12<sup>th</sup>. Skylight report by Howard Kalnitz and Dinner in the Mountain report by Bob Dobbs have already been written, and will be included. All Skylight donors will be acknowledged. A notice for the upcoming Open House will be included.

The newsletter/membership mailing will need a postage party. J. Gott will print addresses on envelopes. When materials are being printed a postage party will be arranged.

3. Lifetime Membership T-shirts need replenishing (W. Jud). A price could be set to allow lifetime members to purchase another shirt, as some lifetime memberships go back 10 years.

**MOTION:** To authorize W. Jud to allow for the purchase of 30 lifetime t-shirts for up to \$250 cost (B. Roth, J. Gott 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4-0-0).

4. Utilizing social media for membership. The RKC Facebook group site is moderated, but is not very responsive. The Membership/Message Committee needs to be active in posting to the group site; more moderators need to be added, specifically B. Roth and J. Gott. Bob Roth was added to the Membership Committee.
5. W. Jud suggests that RKC do more to benefit members and keep them informed. A Quarterly newsletter, even one page, like Heartwood does, would be nice. A cave trip for RKC members was done 2 years ago, but wasn't well attended. Werner Jud & Bob Dobbs advocate paper copy newsletters. G. Bush notes that GCG has asked its members if they will accept electronic copies of their newsletter, and many of them do, saving quite a bit of money. There is a need for a volunteer to take this on.
6. RKC has a tri-fold sign that needs refreshing. The update is being pursued by Neena Jud.

(B) GSP Committee: (J. Brandenburg)

1. Bill Carr is not going to be able to continue mowing, GSP will need help mowing this year.
2. Bob Roth is investigating needed structural repairs for the ticket house at GSP. A committee has been looking at it, and is starting to estimate costs. At Open House they would like to pursue donations. Perhaps put up a list of donors on a Memorial Wall.
3. Roadway Flood Mitigation Grant has no new information, it is in process.
4. A GCG member, Justin Tucker, would like to have a concert in the cave in mid June, with artist Timbre, a harpist and songwriter. B. Dobbs & B. Roth drew up "concert in the cave" guidelines. Planning is not firm yet.
5. Karst-O-Rama has had their first meeting for their 2017 event.
6. Joel Sneed is interested in writing a book about GSP. He wrote an article in the April 2012 NSS News about GSP and Kingston Saltpeter Cave, focusing mostly on GSP. The article came out of the blue without contacting anyone from GSP or RKC and caused internal controversy then by the negative spin it gave toward GSP/RKC. This time we would prefer to review (fact check) what he is writing before it is published. His friend, Nathan Williams, has taken pictures in GSP in the past and has allowed us to use them. He would like to take more pictures to include in this book.
7. George Ridings would like to schedule an ECU faculty day at the cave, B. Dobbs will keep us informed. Gary Bush & Sean Cain are interested in helping once a day is set. Werner and Neena also offered to help give talks to students at ECU.

(C) Misty Cave Committee: (S. Cain)

1. S. Cain said Misty Cave has no news.

(E) Skylight Dome Committee: (D. Sutherland)

1. Thor Bahrman wants to add a lockbox mounted on the showerhouse to hold the 2 cave entrance keys, with the code to be changed on a rotating basis, to keep unauthorized people from using it. They will be scheduling a trail maintenance day. They have uncovered the water bars; hopefully this will help with road maintenance problems, but they may need to clear out the ditches as well. G. Bush suggests two lockboxes, one for each entrance. Howard Kalnitz has asked to resign as Skylight Dome Chairman, and recommends Dana Sutherland and Thor Bahrman III be appointed as co-chairs.

**MOTION:** To authorize the purchase of two keyboxes, for up to \$75, for the Skylight Preserve (W. Jud, B. Roth 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4-0-0).

**MOTION:** To appoint Thor Bahrman III and Dana Sutherland as Skylight Dome Committee Co-Chairs(B. Roth, W. Jud, 4-0-0).

(D) Cornhole Cave Committee: (M. Gratsch)

- 1. No report.

(E) Fundraising Committee: (T. Otten, S. Cain reporting)

- 1. Tammy Otten, Howard Kalnitz, Pam Duncan, Sean Cain manned a table at Winter Adventure Weekend, which made over \$700 for RKC.

(F) Acquisition Committee: (B. Dobbs)

- 1. No new acquisitions planned yet this year. Bob Roth is interested in being included on the committee.
- 2. Land Trust Committee – (J. Gott) LTA updated their Standards and Practices, the new document is available online. J.Gott would like to put on agenda for June adopting a Board resolution to adopt the Land Trust Standards and Practices as a guiding principle.

**Old Business:**

A. RKC Key Policy (T. Otten) – No report.

B. Strategic Plan (S. Cain)

A special meeting was held to address strategic planning for RKC on Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup>. The revised document will be reviewed by Board members, comments accepted and adoption expected on the June agenda.

C. Treasurer W. Jud is in his last year as RKC Treasurer. J. Gott is willing to take it over next year, if someone else will take on Secretary.

**New Business:**

A. Life Membership Fund Investment Review – The Life Membership Fund could be invested through the NSS Endowment fund program. They guarantee a 5% return, which would give us \$15 each year for each \$300 life membership. We cannot take that investment back from them, however, it stays in their portfolio. We could borrow from them against it. We are currently investing the Life funds ourselves, which has grown recently, but is subject to market downturns. RKC should have \$15,300 as a principal for 51 life members.

**MOTION:** To fund the Fidelity Life Membership Investment account to \$300 per life member, at 51 members this is \$15,300 at present, to make it whole, and then discontinue taking 25% out of regular dues each month towards the Life Membership Fund. The Life Membership Fund will go up and down from that point as the market changes. Each new Life Membership dues shall be deposited in the Fidelity Life Membership fund (J. Gott, B. Roth, 4-0-0).

**Next Meeting:** Will be held Sunday, June 11th, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. at the Burlington Library, if available.

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn made by B. Roth, seconded by J. Gott at 4:23 PM, Passed unanimously.

Meeting Minutes prepared by Janice Gott, Secretary.

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**Action Items**

- 1. Janice Gott send Skylight Dome photos by Maksim Popov to Gary Bush.
- 2. Bob Dobbs send Dinner in the Mountain info to Gary Bush.

3. All Newsletter content to Gary Bush by March 12<sup>th</sup>.
4. Gary Bush will publish the Spring newsletter, including Skylight Dome donors and upcoming Open House info (May 20-21).
5. Membership renewal letter and newsletter printed and mailed out (postage party) before end of March. Janice Gott will organize.
6. Distribute Strategic Plan to Board Members and others for comments before June meeting.
7. Werner Jud adjusts funds to bring Life Membership Investment account to \$15,300.
8. W. Jud orders 30 Lifetime membership t-shirts.
9. W. Jud to purchase 2 combination key lock boxes for Skylight Preserve.
10. Pam Duncan add B. Roth and J. Gott as moderators to the RKC Facebook group site.
11. RKC tri-fold sign update is being pursued by Neena Jud.
12. Jeff Young & Janice Gott explore display case details for Lush Charity Pot grant.
13. Tammy Otten will continue process of creating key policy for RKC.




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## Spring 2017 MEETING AGENDA

Sunday, March 5, 2017

Main Boone County Library, Burlington, KY

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- **Call to Order – Sean Cain**
- **Announcements**
  1. New Board Votes for Offices
    - \*Welcome Bob Roth to the Board
    - \*Thank Steve Gentry for his service
  2. New Chair takes seat
  3. New Committee Chairs discussed and seated
- **Secretary’s Report – Janice Gott**
- **Treasurer’s Report – Werner Jud**
- **Committee Reports**
  - A. **Membership/Message Committee – Tammy Otten/Janice Gott**
    1. Plan to drive membership in spring.
    2. Replenish “Life Member T-Shirt” supply.
    3. Strategic use of emails and social media to drive membership, giving and volunteerism.
  - B. **GSP Committee – Jerry Brandenburg/Neena Jud**
  - C. **Misty Committee – Sean Cain**
  - D. **Skylight Committee – Thor Bahrman/Dana Sutherland**
    - a. Thank Howard for his service and efforts. Accept Howards resignation.
    - b. Vote on new Committee Chair/Chairs
  - E. **Cornhole Committee – Mary Gratsch**
  - F. **Fundraising Committee – Tammy Otten/Bob Dobbs**
    1. Winter Adventure Weekend – January 26-29, 2017
  - G. **Acquisition Committee – Bob Dobbs**
    1. Acquisition Report – Bob Dobbs
    2. Conservation Easement Committee Report – Janice Gott
- **Old Business**
  - A. RKC Key Policy – Tammy Otten
  - B. Strategic Plan Review – Sean Cain
  - C. Treasurer candidate for next year.
- **New Business**
  - Life Fund investment review.

- **Next Meeting Date**
  - **Motion to Adjourn**
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