

ROC Meeting Minutes: February 2019

In Attendance: Willie Lowe, Robin Schultze, Robin Worcester, Bruce Byers, Bruce McKinney, Fred Matthews, Steve Crowley, Sara Crowley, Penny Allen, Neil Fruhwirth, Steve Collins, and Ashley Lowery

- The meeting was called to order at 5:36 pm.
- **ROC Past Event Recap:**
 - 2/9: ROC Walk with Brother Wolf
 - ROC Trombatore Hike had to be canceled due to inclement weather throughout the month of February
- **Upcoming Events:**
 - ROC Green River Narrows Hike: **March 30th at 10 am (Meet at 9 am at the annex to carpool or 9:30 am at the Food Lion in Columbus) – will need to be re-scheduled in case of rain.**
 - ROC Walk With Brother Wolf: **March 9th at 10 am**
- **Outdoor Programs Director – Projects Update:**
 - Flyers were handed out for the walking club.
 - The Continuing Education Hiking 101 Course: The course will be offered on April 1st – May 6th. It will occur on Monday and Wednesdays at 10 am through Isothermal Community College. It's \$60 to take the course and will count as 30 hours of continuing education. There is not currently a way to register for the course online. Flyers were handed out for the course.
 - Town of Lake Lure forming new department comprised of both Parks and Recreation and Lake Operations. The town has hired Garrett Murphy as the new Parks and Recreation Coordinator.
- **Trail Projects:**
 - Rail Trail: Dave Odom said the orange fencing will likely be removed this week, however it will likely not officially open until September.
 - Broad River: No updates on the Broad River, however a Broad River Stewards meeting will be held on Thursday, March 7th, at the Bechtler House in Rutherfordton.
 - Buffalo Creek Park/Weedpatch Mountain: Buffalo Creek Park and Weedpatch Mountain are looking good, BCP experienced some issues with the trail counters but the trail is in good shape even after the immense amount of rain over the past month.
 - Youngs Mountain: Trail design should be completed by the end of February for the 2-mile trail to the upper cliffs/almost summit of Youngs Mountain. Construction will begin mid-spring to early summer of 2019. Hoping to be completed by end of year.
 - Purple Martin Trail: There is now funding in place to expand the Purple Martin Greenway to Kiwanis park by 2019.

- Dittmer-Watts: No updates on Dittmer-Watts trail, however, there is still a good amount of treefall from the snowfall in December. Ed Dittmer is still deciding what will be done.
- ICC Trails: There has been a slight re-routing of the Blue Trail in order to accommodate a massive treefall in December. The quarter of a mile section that went through a pine grove now goes through the bamboo patch.
- Rumbling Bald: Parking lot is in the process/planning of being expanded. The Rumble went well. They also held a stewardship workday the day after the Rumble and removed a great deal of trash from the river walk trail.
- **Race Series**:
 - The Box Creek Wilderness 10K will start off the 2019 Race Series in February.
 - The Race Series Booklet was created and features pictures and race information. There were enough sponsors that printing did not cost ROC. The booklet is part of a strategy to expand the Race Series outside of Rutherford County.
 - A representative came and spoke about the upcoming 5Kish Color Run: Color Me Green, which will run through downtown Rutherfordton and will include throwing green dye at the runners.