

## ROC Meeting Minutes: March 2017

**In Attendance:** Jerry Stensland, Willie Lowe, Dana Bradley, Hallie Zeedik, Zach Byers, Bruce Rome, Lisa Rome, Bruce Byers, Kathy Pedersen, Tim Will

- The meeting was called to order at 5:38 pm
- **ROC General:**
  - Jerry Stensland announced that we are still working the kinks out of the new website and are looking to recruit a website sponsor for \$3,000 to \$5,000 per year so we can continue to make changes and improvements.
  - Hallie Zeedik went over a recap of last month's outings including the South Mountains Game Lands hike and Dittmer-Watts and Buffalo Creek Park workdays. The Roan Mountain hike has been rescheduled for **April 9<sup>th</sup>**. She said there is a Buffalo Creek Park work day coming up on **March 31<sup>st</sup>** at 10 am, a April Fool's river float on **April 1<sup>st</sup>**, a Bearwallow Mountain sunset hike on **April 28<sup>th</sup>**, Rail Trail clean-up on **April 29<sup>th</sup>**, and the Broad River Spring Sweep on **May 27<sup>th</sup>**. Mayfest in Rutherfordton is **May 6<sup>th</sup>** and ROC will have a booth set up there.
- **Outdoor Programs Director – Projects Update:**
  - Dana Bradley said there are around 35 people that are regularly attending the Couch to 5K trainings each day. She has been planning themed running days to keep the program fun. They had Crazy Color Monday on 13<sup>th</sup> and everyone wore the brightest running clothes they had. She has planned another themed running day (Sport Team Day) for April 10<sup>th</sup> and everyone will wear clothing with their favorite sports team on them. A second Couch to 5K program is planned for the summer and will begin on June 26<sup>th</sup>.
  - Dana is continuing to work on a grant to help fund a passenger van for our organization. She is also starting on another grant that could provide funding for the purchase of several kayaks/canoes that we are in need of for our group river outings and clean-ups.
  - Dana continues to shadow with the Muddy Sneakers program. Becoming a part-time lead instructor with Muddy Sneakers would be a great partnership and would help supplement funding for her position with ROC, as well as help with outreach to local schools.
- **Trail Projects:**
  - Green Line Trail Idea: There is potential for a new trail to be installed along the sewer easement that runs from Spindale to Lake Lure. Most of the route would be along the side of Hwy. 64. This trail would increase bicycle safety and add a 20 –mile, 10 foot wide trail to our County. The plans are still in the concept stage but we will report if plans move forward.
  - Rail Trail: The 1<sup>st</sup> public meeting about the new section of the Rail Trail in Forest City will be held on April 4<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 8 pm. The meeting will be held at the Forest City

Clubhouse and we encourage everyone to come out and give their input on this new trail section. The new, 5-mile section will run from Spindale to Forest Hunt Elementary.

- Buffalo Creek Park/Summits Trail: ROC volunteers spread leaves along areas prone to erosion along the Buffalo Creek Park trail earlier in March. There is another workday planned for March 31<sup>st</sup> to continue improvements. The Eagle Rock Trail is nearly complete with less than a mile to go. This new trail is closed to the public until work is completed but should be completed by late Spring or early Summer.
  - Rutherfordton Trails: Crews have started construction on Phase II of the Purple Martin Trail. This new section will add close to a mile to this beautiful trail and could be completed as early as May.
  - ICC Trails: New trail markers and trail maps will be installed soon. Hallie Zeedik is planning a workday to install the new markers and remove a few trees that have fallen.
  - Dittmer-Watts Nature Trails: New signage has been installed and should make the trails easier to navigate.
- **Race Series:**
    - The Miles for Messiah 5K is coming up on April 8<sup>th</sup>. A free pancake breakfast will be available to all runners after the race. More information can be found at <http://www.rutherfordoutdoor.org/running-race-series-race-details/miles-for-messiah-5k>.