

## ROC Meeting Minutes: March 2018

**In Attendance:** Jerry Stensland, Willie Lowe, Trevor Freeman, Ron Huntsberger, Robin Worcester, Ashley Lowery, Bruce Byers, Zach Byers, Tim Will, Jason Smoak, Parker Smoak, Burwell Byers, Ed Dittmer, Kay Dittmer, Steve Collins, Bruce Rome, Lisa Rome, Larry Curtis

- The meeting was called to order at 5:37 pm.
- **Past Event Recap:**
  - The March 3<sup>rd</sup> Broad River tree removal workday was eventful but section 5 is now ready to float.
  - The ROC Walk with Brother Wolf on March 3<sup>rd</sup> was a big success with 15 people showing up to walk the shelter dogs.
  - On March 10<sup>th</sup>, ROC hiked 12 miles at Gorges State Park.
  - On March 17<sup>th</sup>, ROC had a great 13-mile hike at South Mountains State Park. Tim Will praised this hike as very well done.
- **Upcoming Outings:**
  - Rumbling Bald Hike: **Friday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30 pm**
  - Buffalo Creek Park Trail Workday: **Sunday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm**
  - ROC Walk with Brother Wolf: **Saturday, April 7<sup>th</sup> at 10 am**
  - Broad River Fun Float: **Sunday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 10 am**
  - ICC Girl Scout Workday: **Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm**
  - Pink Beds Hike: **Sunday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 9 am**
  - Summits Full Moon Hike: **Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at 3:30**
  - Jerry asked for outing requests: Bruce Byers interested in leading one, additional interest in mountain biking expedition.
- **ROC Memberships and Partnerships:**
  - The membership drive and sign up push is slated for April.
  - To be a new model with 3 levels of business sponsorship offered, an additional level for non-profits.
  - Upcoming partnership with McDowell Trails Association to coordinate and share knowledge.
  - An upcoming social between the two boards is being planned.
- **Outdoor Programs Director (In Absentia) Updates:**
  - The next Brother Wolf Walk will be held April 7<sup>th</sup> at 10 am.
  - 5 schools are currently involved in Muddy Sneakers program.
  - Thomas Jefferson Classical Academy to launch volunteer week and ROC was picked as their target organization.
  - 100 kids involved will split into groups to help ROC trails, fundraising, etc...
  - Dana will present to TJCA classes.
  - After-school programs are being planned for next year, looking towards the model of Forest Hunt Elementary as an example.
  - This could take the form of a biking, walking, or hiking club.

- ROC applied to the Rutherford Community Foundation for a grant to cover the cost of a van for excursions.
- Dana to offer continuing education classes at ICC in the fall including Paddling 101 and Hiking 101.
- **Race Series:**
  - The Bearfoot 5K will be held later this month and has over 300 registered to race.
  - April 14<sup>th</sup>, the Miles for Messiah race will be held in Forest City and includes a pre-race pancake breakfast.
- **Trail Projects:**
  - Rail Trail work has slowed down due to issues with cross-ties, though the group should finish the construction on schedule as they had been ahead.
  - The southern end of the trail near Forest Hunt is ready to pave after bid is approved.
  - The trail name will be the Thermal Belt Rail Trail, though the logo is still in the design and approval stage.
  - The Purple Martin Greenway in Rutherfordton has an addition set to be paved as soon as the weather is favorable.
  - It was reiterated that the Town of Rutherfordton has contributed a great deal of time from their public works department constructing this trail.
  - The Mountains to Main Street Trail possibilities were discussed in detail.
  - A committee for the trail is exploring a route utilizing the Broad River running from Lake Lure to Rutherfordton.
  - The Town of Lake Lure received a planning grant to study the feasibility of this route which may possibly connect to the Purple Martin Greenway.
  - Tax break possibilities for private landowners along route and a strong desire to see a connection along Coxe Road to the Purple martin Greenway were discussed.
- **Update from Town of Lake Lure:**
  - Ed Dittmer relayed that the 1-acre parking lot addition at Buffalo Creek Park is awaiting funding and the town is hoping for a grant match.
  - Chimney Rock State Park is working on acquiring access to the Weedpatch Mountain Trail and Eagle Rock off Shumont Rd.
  - The official opening for the Weedpatch Trail is May 7<sup>th</sup>, by which time all signage and kiosks will be up.
  - The maintenance and management plans for this area are being finalized with emergency access routes known.
  - Emergency access points also accessible to trail maintenance.
  - No updates on Youngs Mountain trail development and land acquisition though the ownership situation was recapped.
  - The views promised from trail development were said to be amazing.
  - The Town of Lake Lure just received 1,500 acres donated from Conserving Carolina adjoining Buffalo Creek Park.
  - There is a possibility of expanding/improving existing bike loop at Buffalo Creek Park by utilizing this new property.
  - The Lake Lure Luremont trail is in the discussion and planning phase.

- Town of Lake Lure has recently purchased property with dock along river which may be used for personal watercraft launches in the future.
  - Chimney Rock State Park master plan calls for a new entrance road and this route may begin behind the Lake Lure Inn.
  - It was suggested that the Town of Lake Lure offer a cheap, off-season fee for locals launching personal watercraft in the lake.
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- Meeting adjourned at 6:48 pm.