

ROC Meeting Minutes: March 2019

In Attendance: Dana Bradley, Jerry Stensland, Willie Lowe, Robin Schultze, Tim Will, Bruce Rome, Lisa Rome, Steve Gilbert, Neil Fruhwirth, Bruce Byers, Kathy Coldren, Dennis Coldren, Jason Willette, Joshua Dill, Paula Garrard, Bruce McKinney, Jody Fletcher, Steve Collins, Jennifer Collins, Penny Flynn, and Larry Curtis.

- The meeting was called to order at 5:38 pm.
- **ROC Past Event Recap:**
 - 2/9: ROC Walk with Brother Wolf had to be re-scheduled due to stormy weather in the morning.
 - 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: **April 6th at 10 am**
- **Outdoor Programs Director – Projects Update:**
 - Flyers were handed out for the walking club. Dana discussed that on May 1st, the times for the walking club will change in order to reflect the changing temperatures outside and the longer, hotter evenings.
 - The Continuing Education Hiking 101 Course: The course will be offered on April 1st – May 1st. 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.
 - ROC is continuously applying for grants in order to cover operating expenses, as well as increase our outreach to schools and create new programming, as well as purchase a used transit van for group outings.
 - Dana is re-submitting a grant application at Lowes in order to obtain a chainsaw and a few handsaws, along with other smaller tools. She is also applying for a grant with Walmart.
 - ROC is having a Spring Membership Push/Drive! Joining ROC has a myriad of benefits and all of the money received from memberships goes directly into creating new programming, helping us upkeep local trails, and leading group hikes and river floats.

- **Trail Projects:**

- Rail Trail: Still making progress, but it is slow. They are currently working on finalizing the plans for a structure near the 74 crossing. There have been reports of glass found on the Rail Trail, but the city has been working to remove them (along with individuals just kicking the glass off of the path). They have already purchased the replacement benches but have yet to install them. The Rail Trail is likely to formally open in late September, however it already has heavy use. There will also be a Rail Trail cleanup on Sunday, April 7th as part of Keep Rutherford County Beautiful. ROC will be meeting at the McDonalds in Spindale and sending volunteers on different one-mile stretches of the trail. It will take place from 10-12.
- Broad River: We held a river stewards meeting on March 7th, and decided to schedule the Broad River Spring Sweep for May 11th. We will also be holding two pre-floats to check the river before the actual sweep on April 7th and April 28th. We're hoping to do at least half of Section 4 and Section 5 (and maybe even Section 6 if we have enough participants). We are also working to get an official access point at River Road cleared and formalized. There is also work being done on creating another river access point where the river crosses US 221.
- Buffalo Creek Park/Weedpatch Mountain: Buffalo Creek Park and Weedpatch Mountain are looking good. Conserving Carolina has hired a team of arborists to remove five downed trees along the Weedpatch Mountain Trail this upcoming Saturday (3/23).
- 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: The fencing near Charlotte Road has been taken down. Expansion to Kiwanis Park should be completed by the end of the year.
- 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: ICC trails are looking good. There is likely to be a workday on Friday (3/29) in order to control some of the encroaching branches and brambles.
- Rumbling Bald: Parking lot is in the process/planning of being expanded.

- **Race Series:**

- The Box Creek Wilderness 10K had 40 race finishers.
- The next race in the ROC Race Series will be the Bear Foot 5K. It already has almost 400 registered runners. It will take place on March 23rd at 8:30 am. All proceeds will benefit Sunshine Elementary School.