

ROC Meeting Minutes: November 2017

In Attendance: Jerry Stensland, Willie Lowe, Dana Bradley, Trevor Freeman, Burwell Byers, John Maddry, Fred Matthews, Kenny Armstrong, Chris Chrisawn, Sarah Chrisawn, Korben Chrisawn, Robin Worcester, Bruce Rome

- The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm.
- **ROC Past Event Recap:**
 - There was a Buffalo Creek Park workday November 30th. We removed fallen trees and repaired some eroded areas.
 - The Carl Sandburg hike on November 19th went well.
 - We had a great turnout for the ROC members-only hike from Eagle Rock to Buffalo Creek Park on Monday, November 13th. We had 23 people attend and everyone enjoyed the beautiful scenery along the new trail.
 - We had a good turnout for the Little Bearwallow hike on November 12th.
 - The ROC Brother Wolf Walk on November 5th went well and 3 people came out to walk the shelter dogs with us.
- **Upcoming Events:**
 - Caesars Head Hike: **December 9th at 8 am.**
 - Brother Wolf Walk: **Saturday, December 16th at 10 am.**
 - ROC Holiday Party: **December 19th**
- **Outdoor Programs Director – Projects Update:**
 - Dana Bradley continues to lead the Fall Couch to 5K program on Mondays and Wednesdays through December 6th. Participants will be running in the Elves and Bells 5K on November 25th. There will be 2 programs held next year (May 7th – July 25th → Meet Me at the Fountain 5K and August 27th – November 7th → South of the Mountain 5K).
 - Dana continues to serve as lead educator with Muddy Sneakers for 4 schools in Rutherford County (Rutherfordton, Pinnacle, Sunshine, and Forrest Hunt Elementary).
 - Dana is working on the lesson plans and course descriptions for 2 brand new courses she is putting together to be offered at Isothermal Community College soon. She will contact several companies about being sponsors of the course.
- **Trail Projects:**
 - Rail Trail: All of the town agreements have been signed. Railroad ties will soon be removed from Forrest Hunt Elementary down to Oakland Road. This will be the 1st new section to be installed and will be 12-foot wide when it is completed. The hope is to have the trail completed by fall of 2018. There is now a Thermal Belt Rail Trail Facebook page.
 - Buffalo Creek Park/Summits Trail: The summits trail is closed to the public until work is completed but an opening date should be announced soon (April

2018?). A .25-mile spur trail will be added that will lead to the bottom of Eagle Rock through a cave area.

- Young's Mountain: 320 acres of land are being purchased by Conserving Carolina in November and this will include Ken's Rock. They are hoping to break ground on the new trail there soon. Future connection to Buffalo Creek Park is a possibility. This will be a hiking-only trail.
 - Upper Hickory Nut Gorge: The Trombatore trail should eventually connect to Florence Nature Preserve. Little Bearwallow Mountail trail is the newest trail completed and is a great place for ice climbing. Wildcat Rock can be reached 2 miles into the trail.
 - Purple Martin Trail: Phase 3 will bring the trail to Charlotte Road and should be completed by Spring. Phase IV will extend the trail to Kiwanis Park and should be completed in Fall of 2018. They are constructing a covered bridge along the new trail section.
 - Whistlepig Trail Concept: This is the name that has been assigned to the trail that could potentially be installed between Rutherfordton and Lake Lure. This trail would make use of the sewer line easement.
- **Race Series**:
 - The Elves and Bells 5K is coming up on November 25th and many of the Couch to 5K participants will be running in this race. This is the last race in the Race Series and overall awards for the series will be announced after the race awards are given out.