

ROC Meeting Minutes: October 2017

In Attendance: Jerry Stensland, Willie Lowe, Dana Bradley, Trevor Freeman, Magi King, Martin Jones, , Bruce Rome, Lisa Rome, Rick Mullins, Steve Collins, Jennifer Collins, Steve Gilbert, Peter Barr, Burwell Byers, Tim Will, Don de Bona

- The meeting was called to order at 5:31 pm.
- **ROC Past Event Recap:**
 - There were Buffalo Creek Park workdays on September 17th, 18th, and 25th. We removed fallen trees and repaired some eroded areas.
 - The Crowders Mountain hike on September 30th went well.
 - We had a great turnout for the Tour de Pumpkin on October 7th.
 - The ROC Brother Wolf Walk on October 14th went well and 10 people came out to walk the shelter dogs with us.
 - The weather was perfect for our Hawksbill Mountain and Linville Falls hike on October 15th.
- **Upcoming Events:**
 - Fall Leaf Float: **October 21st at 8:30 am.**
 - Brother Wolf Walk: **Sunday, November 5th at 10 am.**
 - ROC members-only hike from Eagle Rock to Buffalo Creek Park: Monday, **November 13th**
 - Next ROC meeting will be moved to **November 28th** since it would normally fall during Thanksgiving week.
 - ROC Holiday Party: **December 12th**
- **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.
- **Trail Projects:**
 - Rail Trail: 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.
 - Buffalo Creek Park/Summits Trail: Peter Barr with Conserving Carolina spoke about the new tri section that connects Buffalo Creek Park to Eagle Rock. He announced that Buffalo Creek Park is now a 1,527 acre park. The new trail is a backcountry trail and is

designated for hiking and bike riding. He said that there are many interesting sites along the way including Flapjack Rock and Grey Rock.

- This new trail is closed to the public until work is completed but an opening date should be announced soon (April?). 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.
- **Race Series:**
 - The South of the Mountain 5K trail run is coming up on November 4th and Steve Collins announced that you need to register by October 22nd to be guaranteed a race packet with a shirt and other items. More information can be found at <http://www.rutherfordoutdoor.org/running-race-series-overview>.
 - The Elves and Bells 5K will be held on November 25th.