

ACRA Board Meeting MINUTES
May 18, 2016
10:00 am DoubleTree Hotel
Green Tree , PA

Board Meeting

Present: Cassie Brandon, Ginny Bowman, Angela Conte, JoAnna McQuaide, Janet Norkus, Guy Tumolo, Roger Westman

Absent: Marge Lubawy, Pete Schepis, Joe Scorpion.

- Approval of Minutes of April 20
 - Format changed to include Board attendance roster, board and luncheon meetings,
 - Attachments to be attached to minutes should be in pdf format to be included on the web-site.
 - Distribution of minutes- add Cassie Brandon to the distribution list
 - Move to approve: Janet Norkus. Second: Ginny Bowman. Passed.
- Treasurer's Report – Janet Norkus
 - Approval of Expenses
 - Move to approve: Angie Conte. Second: Ginny Bowman. Passed.
 - Transmitting dues paid information – Scan and send to Cassie Brandon.
- Officers and Board Member Duties outline-please submit all copies electronically to Guy for consolidation into one document.
- Newsletter next edition due to be out in early June.
 - Special articles, Board Report rather than only President's message
 - Ted Puzak asking for members support at today's luncheon
 - Sending copies to County Executive, Council, Retirement Board--DONE
- Luncheon Programs
 - May 18 Gardening & County Park Ranger Program
 - Sept 21 Pittsburgh Zoo
 - Oct. 19 Len Barcoucky, Interesting Stories of Allegheny County
 - Nov. 16 Medicare representative Barbara Veazey. Annual Meeting.
 - Dec. Christmas Party
- Outings
 - April Raccoon Creek S.P. –review of a very good outing
 - May 24 History Center, Marge Lubawy

June 22 Family Picnic starts at 11 a.m. lunch at 1230. Ken Bell reserved the shelter; West Mifflin Community Park 525 Bettis Road

Assignments

Games to play- all
Serving tools- Angie Conte
Soda – Janet Norkus/Pete Schepis
Coolers – Ginny Bowman/all
Chips, dip, pretzels – Janet Norkus
Paper products- Janet Norkus
Sandwich rings, salads, ice - Angie Conte to call
Giant Eagle
Cost per person - \$5.00 (including kids/grandkids)

Sept 29 Pittsburgh Botanic Gardens, near Settlers Cabin –Ginny Bowman
Oct Homewood Cemetery, Roger Westman. No date confirmed yet but want Oct 13

- Website- JoAnna McQuaide training on web-site by Imagebox - DONE
- Old business - none
- New Business
For members working on the desk/selling tickets – cost of lunch is \$10.
No board meeting in June or July but on Aug 18 at Panera Bread, Oakland at 9:30 a.m.

Adjournment Moved: Guy Tumolo. Second: Ginny Bowman at 11:29 a.m.

- Luncheon Meeting
Ted Puzak addressed the members about the upcoming election for his seat. If re-elected he will be the only ACRA member on the retirement board.

Denise Schreiber- head horticulturist gave us some tips about some widely held urban myths and legends:

Marigolds, cedar mulch, and PAM spray repel insects - NO.
If it is organic it must be safe – NO
Peonies need ants to open buds – NO
Removing suckers from tomato plants gives the main plant strength – NO
Rusty aluminum nails turns hydrangeas blue – NO
Mulch attracts termites – NO
River rock means no more mulching – NO
Vibrating stakes repel moles – NO

Misting plants is good – NO

Compost tea is good for the soil –NO

Use packing peanuts or Styrofoam to fill flower pots – NO

Use tar or paint to seal amputated branches on tree trunk – NO

Staking trees is good for them - NO

Topping trees is good for them – NO

Colored mulch does not harm the environment – NO

Braden Meiter- Lead Park Ranger.

The park rangers are divided to two districts: northern and southern parks. They use summer interns as seasonal park rangers. The rangers are for customer service and not police. Funding comes from Regional Asset District and a grant from R.K. Mellon Foundation. Conducts School to Park and Park to Schools programs. Last year had 17,000 contacts with the public

Also at the membership meeting there was a drawing for two \$20 gift cards. The 50-50 raffle was \$24 for the winner and \$24 for ACRA.

Respectfully Submitted,
JoAnna McQuaide
Secretary

Minutes approved at Board meeting of August 18, 2016.