

River Roundtable

August 16, 2004

8:30 a.m.

Meeting location: Butler County Engineer's Office

In Attendance: Bruce Koehler, Friends of the Great Miami; Angela Manuszak, Miami Conservancy District; Brian Bohl, Hamilton SWCD; Bob Lentz, Butler County Storm Water District; Kevin Fall and Lynn White, Butler SWCD; Jim Bokeno, City of Hamilton, Electric Dept; Bob Harris, City of Hamilton Parks & Rec; Gail Thornton, City of Hamilton; Tim McLelland, Hamilton to New Baltimore GW Consortium; Peggy Collins, Education Committee/Butler County Groundwater; Debbie Fescina-Rulon, Hamilton Convention and Visitors Bureau

River Roundtable Goal Statement: We will create a better understanding of the Great Miami River and treat the river corridor as a precious natural resource. (*source: January 7, 2003 minutes*)

Update on 2004 10K

Brian reported that Friends of the Great Miami decided to cancel the "race-only" concept for 2004 since sponsorship was not coming together. However, a solid foundation is laid for 2005 regarding contacts and race routes.

Event mission statement

Tim McLelland, Bruce Koehler, and Kevin Fall volunteered to articulate a mission statement for the River Days event that incorporates the group's desire to focus the event on river recreation and citizen stewardship. They will forward it to the group by Friday, August 20.

2005 involvement of Friends of the Great Miami

Bruce reported that Friends' involvement might be scaled back since they no longer have a staff member. He will approach their new treasurer regarding his willingness to have the organization serve as fiscal agent. Friends would also accept part of the proceeds of the event to be used for specific projects (plantings, etc.) or in trade for specific services. (fiscal agency)

Other organizations/causes to benefit

In order to benefit the river and have a cause to promote to sponsors, the group will explore working with Vision 20/20, an initiative to further develop riverfront amenities/access/recreation in Hamilton. This group may also guide us toward volunteer groups. Bob Harris, Tim and Debbie will seek an appointment with Nancy Wiley, the group's leader and chair of Hamilton Rotary before the September 9 Vision 20/20 meeting.

Other possible fiscal agents

Group should have 501 © (3). If Friends can't do it, Peggy suggested that we ask Three Valley Conservation Trust, OSU Extension, Rotary, United Way, Miami Valley RC&D, or a community foundation. Brian suggested Land Conservancy of Hamilton County.

Events

Bob Harris has had conversations with the American Hearth Association pledge Heart Walk. They have about 5 – 700 people for an annual walk in September and would be interested in having it during River Days in 2005. That way we could share set-up and advertisement. (Ray Meyer is contact).

He's received a letter from No Wake Marina's Greg Goddard about having a wake board tournament. They will have one on September 11 and 12 this year – typically a Sunday event with set up on Saturday.

Sponsor follow-up

Once we have a clear vision of what the event will be, we will meet with those sponsors who showed interest for 2004.

Scope of event

The group prefers a one-day (Saturday) event, or perhaps one and a half days for the first year.

Seed money

Each organization represented will keep the event in mind when planning 2005 budget, since a little bit from each organization put together would make a nice amount of seed money to be used for up front promotion, deposits for entertainment, etc. Bob Harris suggested that we may need to make the rounds with a presentation to various governmental bodies. Bob Lentz suggested that we could put up a raffle table at Ice Fest to begin to advertise and raise seed money that way.

Chair

The group agreed to have Bob Harris write agendas and serve as acting chair at meetings, and Angela will continue to type minutes, distribute them and do meeting notices. Bob Lentz will assist Bob Harris.

Next meeting

Monday, September 13, 8:30 a.m. at Butler County Engineer's Office

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