

Forest Heights Homeowners' Association

Trails and Natural Habitat Committee

Minutes of September 3, 2008 meeting

Attendees: Shan Topiwalla, Bob Heimbucher, Larry Heald, Jan Neiryneck, Ann Lyon and Stephen Herr, General Manager

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm. The minutes from the July 2, 2008 meeting were approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **A committee chair is still needed**
- **Benfield Trail – Richard has plans to put in stairs, a bridge across the creek, and a retaining wall with the estimated completion date of 10/1 and the committee agreed to call it the Benfield Trail**
- **Gravel – Due to problems with slipping on graveled trails, a discussion was held on how to minimize the problem. Some suggestions included using smaller grain -1/2” instead of 3/4” or not graveled all of the trails. Perhaps check with the city to see what they are doing at Forest Park. For the new trail, compact the gravel into the mud. Perhaps add hand rails. Do a test at Murdock Bridge Trail.**
- **Trail Assignments – Get all trail reports in by the October meeting.**
- **Bikes – they continue to be a problem on the Sword Fern trail. Bikes damage the trails and erosion occurs when the gravel is displaced by the bikes. Ann Lyon gave an article she wrote a few years ago to Stephen Herr to possibly include in a future newsletter regarding bicycles and our trails.**
- **Benches – The benches at Mill Pond are now installed and appear to be well-used by the community.**
- **Trail Mapping- 2 out of 5 is completed. Mary Shuhert did Hike 4 Chapin-Skyline loop, Bob Heimbucher did the Miller Hill loop and Boulder/Sword Fern, And Larry Heald plans to do the Miller Hollow/Deer Run/Coyote Creek/Murdock Bridge. We still need Caxton Woods and Miller Pond including the Wet Lands trail.**

NEW BUSINESS

- **Budget request – 1st item \$7,000 – Cut down blackberries and replace with native species. Shan Topiwalla worked on this. 2nd item \$24,000 – Trail extension to newly annexed area of Thompson Heights. 3rd item \$5,000 – Trail safety regarding loose gravel and handrails. 4th item \$5,500 – Hard scape trail egress and ingress intersections. Total budget recommendation is \$41,500. The committee voted to approve the budget recommendation.**
- **Budget Prioritization – The committee recognized that the board may not approve the entire budget so the 4 budget items were prioritized as follows:**

- 1. Trail Safety**
- 2. Hardscape trail egress/ingress**
- 3. Replace blackberries with native species**
- 4. Trail Expansion - The committee decided to divide this item into two separate expansion items at \$12,000 each – Miller Hollow to Murdock Street and Thompson Road to Chapin Drive at priorities 4 and 5 respectively.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

**Ann Lyon
Acting Secretary
Committee member**