

**River Ranch Friends Group
Annual Meeting 2022-2023
Williamson County River Ranch County Park
Interpretive Center
September 26, 2023
7:00 p.m.**

friendsofriverranch.org
P.O. Box 256, Liberty Hill, TX 78642

Attendance:

FRRCP Board of Directors

Wayne Collins, President*
Kathy Corbett, Vice-President* (not present)
Lori Franz, Secretary*
Mike Rodgers, Member-at-Large* (not present)
Sue Wiseman, Member-at-Large*
Betsy Murphy, Director
Dave Armstrong, Immediate Past President*

Wilco Park Advisors:

Russell Fishbeck, Senior Director of Parks
Robert Moss, RRCPP Park Manager
Keith Greer, Parks Operations Manager
Emsud Horozovic, Park Asst. Director
Sam Gibson, Park Asst. Office Administrator

*Executive Committee Members

Membership in Attendance (34):

22 Members
10 Guests
4 Park Staff
(2 counted as Members)

Mission Statement

The Friends of River Ranch County Park mission is to advocate and support the park through information, interpretation, and assistance in the operation and conservation of the park.

Vision

Interpretation
Financial support
Maintenance and Conservation activities
Operations assistance
Advocacy

President's Report: Wayne Collins

Wayne called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone. He then introduced the Board, Executive Committee, and Director Betsy Murphy.

Williamson County Park Presentation: Russell Fishbeck, Robert Moss

Wayne recognized the Williamson County Parks and Recreation Department personnel in attendance. Then **Russell** spoke to the group and welcomed everyone. **Robert** gave specific Park information: In the 1,354 acres there are 20 miles of trails with 73 campsites. He then introduced additional Parks Department employees present: Richard Powe and Troy Shore.

Guest Speakers: Cynthia Long, Jim Rodgers

Commissioner Long spoke highly of the Park and welcomed everyone, encouraging members of Friends to get involved.

Former Director of Williamson County Parks, Jim Rodgers spoke about the development of the Park and also welcomed the crowd.

Minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting: Lori Franz, Secretary

After Lori spoke briefly, the 2022 Annual Minutes were approved by unanimous FRRCP members.

Lori reminded the membership that the Minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting have been posted on the FRRCP website for review by the membership and recently emailed to members, with extra copies located at the Welcome Table.

2022-23 Treasurer's Report and Financial Report: Wayne Collins

Wayne gave the current Treasurer Report for the period beginning 09/14/2022 and ending 09/06/2023, ending balance of \$7,764.12. With no additions or corrections, the Treasurer Report was approved as submitted by attending members. Also, as required by our ByLaws, a Review and Audit of the 2022-2023 Financial Records of FRRCP was conducted by an ad hoc Financial Examination Committee, consisting of Wayne, Lacy Lynn Schogern, and Kevin Kennedy.

Wayne went on to explain the formation of five Board Committees and then invited Board Member Betsy Murphy to present.

Membership Committee: Betsy Murphy

Betsy explained the Membership categories (Individual, Patron, and Lifetime) and the term of membership is valid until the first anniversary of the date on which the park officially opened to the public, July 22. She then described the two Donor categories (Partners and Sponsors) and asked a spokesperson from the three Sponsors to address the audience. He reminded people of ways to join.

Native Plant Society: Sue Wiseman

Sue mentioned a scheduled walk at the Park will take place the Sunday after Thanksgiving, November 26, 2023.

Goodwater Chapter, Texas Master Naturalists: Cindy Chrisler, Pres.

Cindy invited everyone to come to the Park for the Annular Eclipse on October 14. The GWMN will have lectures, appropriate viewing glasses, a project for the children to create box viewing, and short lectures.

Sun City Hiking Club: Petra Garren

Petra spoke about the 35 member group donating about 3,500 hours of trail work to the Park.

Projects and Activities: Betsy Murphy

Explained that those currently in the planning stages include:

Social Events for Members

Staffing and Operation of RRCP Interpretive Center

Educational Programs for Adults and Children

Guided Hikes/Talks for Adults and Children

Reminded attendees that there are two ways that park advocates can volunteer at River Ranch CP:

Projects and activities coordinated by Friends of River Ranch CP

Projects and activities coordinated by River Ranch County Park staff

Election of the 2023-2024 Executive Committee: Dave Armstrong

In accordance with the FRRCP Bylaws, a three-member Nominating Committee, consisting of Dave Armstrong, Don Shawhan and Petra Garren were appointed to compile a slate of Nominees for election as the six-member 2023-2024 Executive Committee. With no further nominees given, nominations were closed, and with a vote from the attending membership present, the six candidates were elected for the FRRCP 2023-2024:

President: Wayne Collins

Vice-President: Kathy Corbett

Secretary: Teresa Moen

Treasurer: Mike Rodgers

At-Large Member: Shelley Franklin

At-Large Member: Sue Wiseman

New and Further Business: Reminder of the October 14 Annular Eclipse and the Total Eclipse on April 8, 2024. *Walk for the Wild* October 7-14, 2023 with three guided hikes scheduled at Balcones Canyonlands. Strong need for

Volunteers, especially at the Interpretive Center, at River Ranch Park. And a new Interpretive Center bird water feature was discussed by John Kendall.

Call for Further Business: none

Closing Remarks/Adjournment: Wayne Collins

The Annual Meeting concluded at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lori Franz, Secretary