

FRRCP FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING
Tuesday, September 30, 2025
Liberty Hill Beer Market – 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

The Fifth Annual Meeting of FRRCP was called to order at 6:06 pm by President, Kathy Corbett, who welcomed members and guests. There were 28 adults present at the meeting, 16 of whom were dues-paying members.

Board Of Director Members Present

Executive Committee - elected by the membership

President: Kathy Corbett

Secretary: Karen Shawhan

Treasurer: Wayne Collins

Directors - appointed by the Executive Committee

Director of Communications: Mary Dobbelaere

Director of Volunteer Coordination: Crystal Bailey

Wilco Parks & Recreation Department Management and Staff Members Present

Russell Fishbeck, Director of Wilco Parks Department

Emsud Horozovic, Assistant Parks Director

Katie Mikulak, Parks Operation Director

Robert Moss, Park Supervisor, River Ranch County Park

Sam Gibson, Assistant Office Administrator, River Ranch County Park

GUEST SPEAKERS

Russell Fishbeck (DIRECTOR OF WILCO PARKS DEPARTMENT)

Russell listed the six parks in Williamson County, stating that there are vehicle counters at 4 of the parks. The counters reveal that there were over ½ million visitors to the 4 parks alone. There were a total of 9,000 volunteer hours spent at the 6 parks, which is the equivalent of 4 paid employees. The Berry Springs Park and Preserve \$6 million project was completed in August. Be sure to check out the new features at the park. There were \$10.7 million improvements completed at the Expo Center in Taylor and the 1.5-mile Brushy Creek Trail gap between Cedar Park and Round Rock will be completed in the beginning of 2026. The BCRT will then stretch 10 miles from Twin Lakes YMCA to Round Rock. After 40 years of park service, Russell announced that he will be retiring on Oct 31st. His next job will be working in his wood shop.

Robert Moss (PARK SUPERVISOR at RRC)

Robert expressed his appreciation and thanked the many Friends volunteers for their invaluable service to the park, which included products such as the construction of the bird blind, the barbed wire project, the installation of the bird feeder and water tank, coordinating the Friends volunteers and staffing the Interpretive Center, developing the trails and putting together the guided walks. In addition, he thanked the group for donating 20 Wilco Annual Parks Passes for the 20 Miler Challenge in 2024 and for donating 25 Wilco Annual Parks Passes for the **25 in '25 Challenge** this year.

Sam Gibson (Assistant Office Administrator at RRC)

“25 in '25 Challenge” Report

There were 70 park visitors who completed the 20 Mile Challenge in 2024. Since July 22, 2025, 19 visitors have completed the **25 in '25 Challenge** with 3 completing it in one day.

DarkSky Texas (SAVE OUR STARS)

Donna Leonard, owner of Liberty Hill Beer Market and **Crystal Mancilla**, Liberty Hill Mayor described the basic principles of responsible outdoor lighting. In 2021 there was a power outage in Liberty Hill. Donna

noticed how phenomenal the night sky was when you could actually see it. This started her involvement in DarkSky Texas, which is an organization that teaches how to light without light pollution. Liberty Hill was the first city in Williamson County to receive the International DarkSky Community certification. There are 5 principles for responsible outdoor lighting: use light only if it is needed, direct light so it falls only where it is needed, light should be no brighter than necessary, use light only when it is needed, and use warmer color lights where possible. There will be a DarkSky Texas Event (**Mysteries & Myths**) at RRCP on Oct 25th from 5:30pm to 11pm. The group from DarkSky, Texas also included **Liz Brannigan** (former Liberty Hill Mayor), **Pam, Leah**, and a gentleman.

FRRCP BUSINESS MEETING

The Minutes of the 2024 Annual Meeting were approved as posted. The Treasurer Report was approved as presented. Both the **Minutes** and **Treasurer Report** will be posted on the website.

Review and Audit of the Financial Records

Kathy reported, that as required by our Bylaws, an annual review and audit of the FRRCP financial records for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 was conducted by an ad hoc Financial Examination Committee consisting of members Lisa Chmelar and Joan Henderson. Their review of the report submitted by Treasurer Wayne Collins confirmed that cash balances on hand are correctly stated and that appropriate internal controls are in place and are being followed. Their subsequent annual report to the Board was accepted on September 14, 2025.

Committee Reports

Membership – reported by Kathy Corbett in Teresa Moen’s absence

The committee maintains a current database of FRRCP members. Working with the Treasurer, the Membership Committee volunteers process on-line and mail-in applications (both new and renewals) and then sends welcome or thank-you letters accordingly.

Membership Status as of 9/30/25: 80 Paid Members, which includes 10 Lifetime Members; 2 Partners; 4 still to be paid. Reminders are sent to those whose membership is up for renewal.

Communications – Mary Dobbelaere.

Volunteers on this committee maintain and update the FRRCP website: www.friendsofriverranch.org
They also promote FRRCP activities on Facebook and Instagram Pages.

Programs/Outreach

This Committee coordinates events, tours, educational programs and similar activities through which FRRCP interacts with both its members and with the visiting public.

January – September 2025:

Nature Journaling Session #3 on March 29

Nature Social on April 5

Porcupine Pick-Up Project May 31

Raptor Talk September 27

Volunteer Coordination - Crystal Bailey

This Committee serves as liaison with the Park staff in assigning FRRCP volunteers to specific projects and activities for which FRRCP has assumed responsibility. Members should email FRRCP if they would like to volunteer for any of the projects.

Barbed Wire Removal Project – Volunteers have removed dangerous barbed wire and rotting fence posts along the trails. Barbed wire removal efforts will resume later this fall.

Interpretive Center Staffing – Since October 2024 we have had FRRCP volunteers staff the IC on 83 days.

Bird Feeding Station Monitoring – Bird feeders have been installed in the front and back of the Interpretive Center and at the bird blind.

Bird Blind Project – Construction and painting of the building have been completed. Current projects include installation of a rainwater collection system and pollinator garden and are resupplied on a regular basis by FRRCP volunteers.

Guided Hikes – In addition to guided hikes conducted by FRRCP volunteers last Fall to support the 20-Miler Challenge, hike leaders recently conducted three public group hikes to support the “25 in ‘25 Challenge” and will conduct two final Challenge hikes in October and November.

Nominating Committee – Dave Schunk

The Nominating Committee this year, appointed by the Friends Board, included Dave Schunk, Joe Schifffgens and Wayne Collins (immediate Past President).

Dave Schrunk requested nominations from the floor. Since there were no further nominations, Dave presented the Nominating Committee’s candidates for election to the **FRRCP 2025-2026 Executive Committee**.

President: Kathy Corbett

Vice-President: Teresa Moen

Secretary: Karen Shawhan

Treasurer: Wayne Collins

Member-At-Large: John Kendall

Member-At-Large: Mike Chaffin

By a majority vote of the members present, the 6 candidates were elected. The new FRRCP 2025-2026 Executive Committee will take office on October 1, 2025.

New Business:

Kathy mentioned the possibility of FRRCP assisting at the “**Mysteries & Myths**” event.

CLOSING REMARKS:

Kathy thanked Shelley Franklin for her service on the BOD. She urged attendees to contact FRRCP leadership any time by email: friendsofriverranch@gmail.com. and to check FRRCP and RRCP websites for updates. She also encouraged attendees to participate in Wilco’s “**25 in ‘25 Challenge**”, to take a “selfie” with park mascot Pokey and pick up brochures on **DarkSky Texas**.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00pm.