

Returning Home: Our first on-site meeting since we were exiled in 2011 / and a surprise guest !  
**FoCH Meeting Minutes – July 14, 2015. Gund Hall front porch** attendance- 12

**Corey opened the meeting with the announcement that RJRD owns the property.** Transfer ceremonies which took place the previous day included a resolution of appreciation for FoCH. Corey made copies available for any who want them [ I have additional copies ]

Committee reports

**Treasury** - Donna Spiegler. We have \$12,483 . Rummage sale made \$1,247.81 Congratulations to Beth and all who donated or helped!

**Communications** – Corey. Our e-newsletter needs a name. “Mail Chimp” is the brand name of our service, but it’s confusing for members to keep calling our letter by that name. Several people immediately called out “The Millwheel” . Question came up whether GS has somehow trademarked that name. But if they ever had a proprietary claim, it is no longer appropriate since they no longer own the mill. “Millwheel” is definitely a possibility, but we need to think about it. Website home page has a button so people can sign themselves up to receive e- newsletters.

**PR** – Dick Johnson . we need high resolution versions of Kirby pictures to enlarge for various uses, including enlargement. Technical discussion deferred d/t time. The originals of many are in RHS collection. Parking lot at RHS now partially usable. If anyone has expertise for hi-rez copy & enhanced enlargement, contact Dick.

**Code of Regs**- Rob Richardson. We have two vacant officer positions ( possibly three, d/t role sub-division). Our code requires that officers already be board members. But there is no provision for emergency elections. He will propose amendments and present them for vote at the August meeting.

Corey noted that various vacant positions are listed on the agenda. Members Judy Soroczak is considering informal work on board development committee.

No reports from secretary, membership, marketing, merchandising.

Projects

**Crowell Hilaka Memories** - Lynn Richardson/ Joanie Gottschling. Lynn is working on the application to get the entire Crowell Hilaka property listed on the National Historic register. The preliminary application was approved at the state level. But the notification says the national level requires documentation on “how Crowell Hilaka contributed to the trend of providing recreational activities that promoted social welfare and education to young women.” FoCH can embrace this challenge. We can seek out camp alumni and invite them to share their personal stories of Crowell Hilaka. The information can be used to complete the application. The stories themselves can archived at RHS Museum.

Joanie G will led the Memories Project. Joanie shared her experience being interviewed for a Metroparks history project. She distributed questionnaire draft based on the Metroparks’ . Joanie’s plan is to recruit a few volunteers to video record interviews if possible ( or audio record if not. ) Video allows us to have a more complete record, and makes it possible at some time in the future to compile clips into an overall history video . She plans to start with the older alumni first- starting with her own

mother (who says that time may be running out- she doesn't even buy green bananas any more) . We will begin seeking out interview subjects through several facebook groups. We have space at the county fair to spread the word- altho it maybe too noisy for actual interviews there.

Dick suggested that interviewers ask subjects who else they knew that might be willing to share their story. Networking. Pat suggested that we have people sign a release. Question of where to conduct the interviews. A suggestion was that we could come to Crowell Hilaka if subjects willing to travel for a return visit! Shy alumni could fill in a questionnaire.

Lynn- Possibility of providing thank you gifts. Patches were considered. A better option might be to produce more of the laminated maps but print an illustrated CH timeline on the reverse side. This idea got some enthusiasm. Pat suggested calendars. Donna pointed out they expire and you can be left holding unusable stock. Lynn said she like calendar idea, but it will take more time to put together. Suggested made to contact the GS alumni who attended the open houses last fall.

We want a large push to get alumni to sign up ASAP d/t the registry application; but it might be nice to keep this as an on-going project.

Cuyahoga County Fair is Aug 10-16. Lynn will be there most of the time that she does not have to work. If anyone can help cover some hours, contact her.

**Kirby Estate Historic signs** - 4 signboards with content draft presented. Enthusiastically received and suggestions made. Final call for comments to be by email.

**At this time, special guests John Lackner Sr. & John Lackner Jr.** accompanied by Beth Sanderson, completed their tour of the property & were invited to our meeting. John Senior knew the Kirbys. His father had been Jim Kirby's primary machinist/ model maker when he lived on Medina Line Rd. John grew up at the Kirby estates here & in Florida. As a boy he helped test and demonstrate Kirby's fishing reel. He then went on to work in the Kirby factory. John Jr. currently works for the Kirby Co. John Sr was invited to share his recollections of the Kirbys with FoCH, which he did - right then. John Lackner is a very engaging speaker and we were entranced by his wonderful stories. [ expanded notes to follow separately]

**Kirby Birthday party** - we don't have official permission yet; but they haven't said no. Plus- Kelly Clark attended a committee planning session. Corey reviewed the proposed outline:

- Sept 27 considering twitter hashtag #Kirby131
- Centered at North side because south side does not have adequate parking yet. Next year may be different.
- cupcakes, or cookies to be served - free to public
- Activity stations to be science/ engineering oriented: largest is a bicycle dynamo competition
- Corey working on a roving strand beast
  - Scheduled history hikes,
  - scheduled Kirby bingo game
- History display to be at Gund for this event; eventually to be kept up elsewhere on property.

- Scheduled “history hikes” to the south side

Other ideas welcome. Pat Boczar suggested hanging up a rug & having a beater to show what things were like before Kirby. John Lackner Jr. says Kirby Co may have historical objects it can lend. Karen suggested that since it’s a birthday that we say “in lieu of gifts people can consider making a contribution to a project”.

No time to discuss RJRD clean up days ( one upcoming this Thursday evening, see RJRD website for details) . Richfield Community days ( we will available to assist RJRD if they want us) Community Parade: Chris Naizer has offered to dress up as a housewife overwhelmed by drudgery. We can distribute invited to the Kirby Birthday along the route.

Meeting adjourned, but of course several people hung around and talked, basking in the glow of Crowell Hilaka

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Richardson, FoCH acting secretary