

Rockcastle Karst Conservancy, Inc.
RKC

Minutes of Meeting, August 31, 2005

Held at Maysville Technical and Community College
Room C105, Calvert Bldg., 7:30 p.m.

Meeting was called to order at approximately 7:50 p.m.

In attendance:

Andy Niekamp
Pat Hutson
Joetta Hutson
Jerry Brandenburg
Camille Thorner (minor)
James Dixon

Werner Jud
Lisa Pruitt-Thorner
Jerry Dixon
Pete Stow
David Lee

Andy had prepared an excellent agenda which kept the meeting on track.

A. 501(c)(3) application

The first item discussed was the 501(c)(3) application which was received on April 29, 2005 but has not yet been approved. Approximately 20% of the applications were approved for fast track processing but RKC's application was not among them. We expect to receive word by November 15. The application fee was \$500.00. The application and attached documentation is considered a public document and must be available for public inspection.

B. Logo

Rob Coomer created various logo designs for RKC. The horizontal logo for RKC was used on the banner and the vertical design was utilized for the t-shirts. RKC thanks Rob for all his hard work and dedication to RKC.

C. Brochure

Rob Coomer also created a very professional, colorful, aesthetic brochure which can be downloaded from the website. Rob printed 500 brochures for the mere cost of paper which was only \$28.90. Once again, RKC sincerely appreciates Rob's professional assistance and extends an official recognition of his contribution.

D. Mailings

In early May, Andy mailed 191 letters and brochures to GCG and DUG. The goal was to promote awareness of RKC and drive for members. The mailing was a success.

The cost of the mailing was \$80.88. Andy asked for membership lists from BGG and ESSO. Jerry Dixon agreed to provide one from BGG and Lisa Pruitt-Thorner promised one from ESSO.

E. T-Shirts

Andy had 48 RKC Tshirts printed for a cost of \$238.79. The sales price is \$15 each for nonmembers and \$10 for members. Approximately 8 shirts remain. Rob Coomer supplied the artwork.

The board and esteemed members in attendance considered whether to keep T-shirts in stock and it was voted unanimously that when the inventory is reduced to 2 shirts, more would be ordered.

F. Newsletter

Traci Fearday produced the first RKC news in June, there will be 4 editions per year.

G. CDs

Andy moved \$4,000 in June into a short term CD, earning 2% annually. The CD matures on Sept. 18.

H. Checks

In July, Werner Jud had professional checks printed with the RKC logo, cost was \$196.34.

I. Banner

In July, Andy had an RKC banner made for \$88.50 with artwork supplied by Rob Coomer. Banner is 6 ft x 2 ft.

J. NSS Convention

At the 2005 Alabama convention, an RKC t-shirt was entered in the shirt salon. Andy also set up a table and placed brochures for distribution. RKC had an ad in the convention program. Andy attended the conservancy workshop and gave a 5 minute presentation on RKC. Andy mentioned that an overriding concern among conservancies is liability insurance and several are opting to "go without".

K. Karst O Rama and Wormfest

RKC had a booth and fund raiser at KOR. A total of \$1,332.00 was collected with expenses of \$181.41. Jo and Pat Hutson did an excellent job organizing the fund raiser, soliciting donations, etc. Money raised came from dues of \$210, t-shirt sales of \$110,

water sales of \$44 and the general fundraiser of \$968.00. Each KOR registration bag included an RKC brochure and there was an ad in the guidebook.

RKC deeply appreciates the efforts of the Hutsons, Andy Niekamp, all who donated goods and the cooperation of GCG and the GSP Committee.

RKC had a mini booth at Wormfest on Aug 19-21, during which \$322.50 was raised. Various businesses and individuals donated door prizes and again, their contributions are greatly appreciated.

L. Officer Reports

Chairman - Andy made his chair report within his typewritten agenda and throughout the meeting.

Vice chairman - Pat Hutson made no official report but contributed valuable comments and information to the meeting as items were discussed.

Treasurer - Werner Jud made a treasurer's report and passed out a typewritten balance sheet, complete to August 31, 2005. RKC currently has \$2,525.04 in the checking account at Bank One and a \$4,000 CD. Membership dues received were \$5,447.50, RKC raised \$1,447.00 from merchandise, and donations of \$67.50 were received. Expenses totaled \$1,094.09, nearly 50% of which was the 501(c)(3) application fee of \$500.00. Other expenses included postage, advertising, shipping, etc.

Secretary - Lisa Pruitt-Thorner read the March meeting minutes, approved.

M. Appointments

The board confirmed appointments of Traci Fearday as newsletter editor and Deb Bledsoe as community liaison and karst monitoring coordinator.

N. Membership update

RKC has 72 members now. Andy asked that officers send welcoming emails to each new member. RKC has 2 organizational members.

O. Life Members

It was decided by all those in attendance, including the board unanimously, that life members should receive a free t-shirt with the logo and "life member" insignia. Enough tshirts will be printed to give each current life member a t-shirt plus have a small inventory for future life members.

P. Donations/dues

It was decided that organizations which donate money will be considered

members if their donations meet the levels prescribed by RKC, the donor agrees, and desires it handled this way. RKC believes that such membership dues will nevertheless be considered donations by the IRS, since members receive nothing of value in exchange for said dues. Ex: If XYZ grotto donates \$25, RKC will give XYZ an organizational membership if the donor desires.

Q. Membership years, dues

The Board voted unanimously to change the dues renewal date from January 1 to April 1 since money is tight for many people around the Christmas holidays.

The Board also voted unanimously to reduce organization dues from \$50 to \$25. It was felt that this might encourage more organizations to become members of RKC.

R. Fifth Director search

We need a fifth director, no particular candidate was discussed.

S. Display case

The board discussed whether to purchase a display case for \$265.00. The case would be hardy, professional and assist RKC in "getting the word out". RKC deferred the decision until later. Jo Hutson and David Lee will see if a better or cheaper source exists.

T. Expenditures

Bylaws include a provision for electronic meetings. If RKC funds are needed for a project, a meeting can be conducted electronically.

U. Conservation

_____ 1. Sinks of the Roundstone clean up

RKC will take on it's first public service project, a clean up of Sinks of the Roundstone cave. The clean up is scheduled for Saturday, October 29. An RKC meeting will be held the next day, Oct. 30.

Andy will coordinate the event but help is needed. Publicity, sturdy sacks and people will be among the resources required for the event. Jerry Dixon mentioned that he could possibly elicit the help of local students.

2. Water sampling

Deb Bledsoe will conduct water testing on September 10. Over a dozen karst and cave sites in Rockcastle County will be sampled for e. coli bacteria. Please volunteer to help.

3. RKC presence at caving events

_____ It was decided that, as part of RKC's general membership and marketing efforts, RKC should have a presence at caving events whenever possible.

RKC will pursue BGG and ESSO as members.

V. Next Meeting

The next meeting is tentatively set for Sunday, October 30, 2005 since the cave clean up will take place the prior day.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:45 p.m.

LISA PRUITT-THORNER
Secretary
