

Rockcastle Karst Conservancy
General Meeting – December 4, 2022
Final

In Attendance 12/4/22:

Directors: Mary Gratsch, Janice Gott and Werner Jud were present onsite.
Patrick Gibson and Gary O'Dell were present online.
(A quorum does exist.)

Others: Scott Pavey, Debi Pavey, Jerry Brandenburg, Josh Heinbuch, Sean Cain were present online. Neena Jud, Mike Wuerth, Susan Neumeyer and Pat Hutson were present on site. Mike Harrington joined online late.

66th Meeting of the Rockcastle Karst Conservancy meeting was held at the Main Branch Boone County Library and online. Called to Order by Chair Mary Gratsch at 2:01PM.

(Meeting Agenda at end of Minutes.)

Announcements:

1. None.

Secretary's Report: (J. Gott)

1. Read summary of Minutes of regular Meeting of 9/18/22.

MOTION: Motion to accept the minutes of the 9/18/22 annual meeting (Jud, Gibson 2nd, by accliam).

Treasurer's Report: (W. Jud)

1. RKC spent \$200 on the new RKC Life membership magnets and \$60 on signs for Sloans Valley Crocket Entrance, through Mike Harrington's friend.
2. The value of both of our investment accounts, Life Member and Legacy, is down due to the current market.
3. Jud is holding funds for the newest life member in our account, rather than sending it to the investment account while the market is faltering.
4. The GSP Halloween party gear sale raised \$2,481 towards the Caretaker's house fund, some of it from Mary Gratsch's gear donation.

MOTION: To accept the Treasurer's Report, Life Member Fund Report, and Endowment Fund Report as provided (Gott, Gibson 2nd, by accliam).

Committee Reports:

(A) Membership/Message Committee: (J. Gott)

1. The tri-fold flyer still needs an update, as well as the tri-fold display board. Gott sent Rob Coomer images (supplied by Mike Harrington) and language changes for the display board. Gratsch will follow up with him.
2. Holiday Greetings – Will be sent out by email to the greater RKC membership list, highlighting needed Sloans Valley improvements and the new SVCP logo.

(B) GSP Committee: (Scott Pavey)

1. GSP Halloween party was a great success.

2. The caretaker house has been updated with all new flooring. Josh Heinbuch is the new caretaker. The house is clean, and ready for new baseboard and appliances. The master bathroom drywall also needs to be completed.
3. The deed for the building has been combined with the GSP property into a single deed including property and residence, all owned by the non-profit RKC.

(C) Misty Cave Committee: (S. Cain)

1. Sean Cain reported no activity, with a cleanup day still needed.

(D) Skylight Dome Committee: (Jerry Brandenburg)

1. No further action from new contractor Joe Smithon a bid for road work on the washed out driveway. He is still very overloaded.
2. There were some lock issues, repaired by Josh Heinbuch.

(E) Cornhole Cave Committee: (M. Gratsch)

1. Gratsch paid the taxes for the year.
2. She visited the cave on Halloween weekend, and was horrified to see how badly the cave entrance has fallen in. A spring above it has been very active, and is eroding the entrance area. It will be very difficult, and a 30' drop to get into the cave.

(F) Sloans Valley Cave Preserve (Mike Harrington reporting)

1. The donation tube has been installed, and is being used regularly. They will need to coordinate with Werner how often to collect funds from it.
2. A cleanup trip, inside and outside of the cave, will be planned, perhaps by mid-January.
3. One of the fence posts at the edge of the parking area had been pulled up, and people parked in the lawn area. It was during the first major group trip there since the new owner installed a gate. Gratsch will look over the area to see if we can add more parking. Patrick Gibson talked to the offender, who agreed that it should not have been done. He noted that the new signage and donation pipe looked great. The new landowner is allowing cavers to go through his gate with permission, and obtaining of the gate code.
4. Patrick Gibson suggested that the RKC website add a Sloans Valley page, with information about the site, and the emphasis that there is no camping permitted, and a map of the property.
5. At some point we will need to meet with the sheriff's department about contact information and an emergency plan.
6. The management plan is still in progress. Gary O'Dell has made some suggestions.
7. RKC has not found the owner of the Cathy Crockett Memorial Trail area near our SVCP parcel. Gratsch and Gott will visit the Pulaski County PVA Department at some point and look this up.

(G) Fundraising Committee:

1. The Halloween party at GSP raised funds for the GSP caretaker's residence.
2. Werner Jud noted that Amazon Smile sent a check for \$11.50. We need to advertise this more widely. This will be boosted in the Holiday postcard.
3. Discussed selling yellow and black bat stickers and RKC stickers at Open House and KOR. Further discussion next meeting.

(H) Land Acquisition Committee: (B. Dobbs)

1. O'Dell and Gratsch are planning to meet with the Miller family at some point. The Millers have three nice cave entrances in a concentrated area.
2. Conservation Easement Committee – The Land Trust Alliance(LTA) sent to all their conservancy mailing list, including RKC, a plea to urge your congressional representatives to support the “Charitable Conservation Easement Program Integrity Act.” This bi-partisan bill did not end up moving forward in the current Congress, but will hopefully be introduced again in the next one.

(I) NSS Preserves Program / MOU Committee: (Mary Gratsch)

1. Gratsch has heard that this NSS program has been helpful to supporting the greater cave owner's community. Patrick Gibson will investigate this further. RKC has been tabling this since before the pandemic, and should pick up the topic again.

Old Business:

- (A) Gary O'Dell met with Susan Neumeyer at GSP to do a preliminary survey for scope of work, for an official archeology report on the saltpeter mining in the cave, if she can secure grant funding for her work. We were pleased to have her at the board meeting. She said that her post-COVID health has not been good, but is improving. She is making a table of each place name in the cave, with historical references and current status. Maegan Rochner at the University of Louisville is a specialist in dendro-chronology, and they have been talking about dating the vats in the cave. It would add to her database, and establish in GSP which vats were used chronologically. Neena Jud suggested looking up the William White map of the cave, created in the 1960's, as a good resource. It shows the big room before it was bulldozed, with notation of where the vats were. Susan is not ready yet to apply for a grant; she is still collecting data.
- (B) Transition Membership: There is a category of membership in the Bylaws that allows for a “payment plan” towards a life membership. There is a policy document detailing membership dues amounts, the “RKC Membership Policy”, from 2005. The policy document is defined as an “act” of the Board. In this document, there is existing language allowing all membership money paid in a year to be applied to a different category. This policy could be used to clarify Transition Membership without needing to amend the Bylaws. Paragraphs relating to donations and membership upgrades were stricken from the document as unneeded.

MOTION: To accept the proposed changes to the RKC Membership Policy [see new policy below] (Gibson, O'Dell 2nd, by acclaim).

New Business:

- (A) Proposed changes to the Election Committee Guidelines were submitted by Gary Bush.
MOTION: To accept the proposed changes to the Board of Directors Election Committee Guidelines document as amended [see rkci.org website for new document] (Jud, O'Dell 2nd, by acclaim).
- (B) Proposed Bylaws change: Gary Bush also proposed election-related changes to the RKC Bylaws. This matter was tabled until a larger overhaul of the Bylaws.
- (C) Nominations for two Director's positions for the Board were taken. The positions who will be up in March 2023 are Mary Gratsch and Patrick Gibson. Mary Gratsch and Patrick Gibson each nominated themselves to continue in their positions. They were the only two nominations.
- (D) Mike Herrington had joined the meeting late. The Board encouraged him to research and plan for Sloans Valley logo merchandise.

Next Meeting: The Annual Meeting was set for Sunday, March 12th, 2023 at 2:00 p.m., location TBD, possibly at the Boone County Library.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3:41p.m.

New Meeting opened at 3:42 pm.

MOTION: To accept the nominations for the Board of directors by acclaim (Jud, O’Dell, by acclaim)

Meeting adjourned at 3:43 pm.

Meeting Minutes prepared by Janice Gott, Secretary.

RKC Membership Policy

Adopted 03/18/2005. RKC Board Act #2005-01

Modified on 8/31/2005.

Modified on 12/4/2022.

1. Membership Dues

The following membership dues amounts are set:

- a. Individual Membership - \$15.00 per year.
- b. Sustaining Membership - \$5.00 automatic payment monthly.
- c. Transitional Membership – A member making payments of a minimum of \$25.00 per month, as a transition toward becoming a Lifetime Member within one year.
- d. Lifetime Membership - \$300.00 one time.
- e. Supporting Membership (for grottos, non-profits, youth groups) - \$25.00 per year.
- f. Supporting Membership (all other organizations) - \$50.00 per year.
- g. Benefactor Membership - \$1,000.00 one time.

2. Membership Year

The RKC membership year shall be from April 1 until March 31. There is a one month grace period for renewing a membership. Members who have not renewed their membership will be dropped from the membership list on May 1.

Action Items

- 1. Email Holiday “postcard” to RKC membership – Gott, Gratsch
- 2. Add Sloans Valley page to website, with map, parking directions and no camping info – Bush, Gibson
- 3. Update Board of Directors Election Committee Guidelines document
- 4. Develop an emergency contact plan with Pulaski County Sheriff Department for Sloans Valley Preserve – Gratsch, Gibson
- 5. Create Sloans Valley Cave Preserve Management Plan–Harrington, Morgan, Gratsch, O’Dell
- 6. Logo merchandise such as T-shirts and other donation perks for Sloans Valley
- 7. Sloans Valley work crew clean up, above and below ground - Harrington
- 8. Tri-fold brochure update –Bush, Coomer, Gratsch, Gott
- 9. Skylight Dome Preserve driveway repairs –Brandenburg

10. NSS Preserves Program MOU Committee
11. Misty Cave work crew/caving trip – Cain
12. Cornhole Cave survey –Gratsch
13. Miller Family Meeting – Gratsch, O'Dell
14. Susan Neumeyer historical survey at GSP – O'Dell
15. Cathy Crockett Memorial Trail research at Pulaski County PVA Office – Gratsch, Gott
16. Update RKC Bylaws



FALL 2022 MEETING AGENDA

Sunday, September 18th, 2022

Main Branch Boone County Library, Burlington, KY - 2:00 P.M.

- **Call to Order – Mary Gratsch**

- A. Announcements**

1. ?????

- B. Secretary's Report – Janice Gott**

1. Minutes 6-5-22

- C. Treasurer's Report – Werner Jud**

1. Life Membership Fund annual distribution
2. RKC nonprofit tax return filed on 8/30/22

- D. Committee Reports**

- A. Membership/Message Committee – Janice Gott**

- a. RKC tri-fold flyer revision
- b. Tri-fold display board revision
- c. Problems with email group

- B. GSP Committee – Scott Pavey**

- a. Karst-O-Rama
- b. GSP Caretaker building

- C. Misty Committee – Sean Cain**

- a. Set up work crew/caving trip to clean up debris

- D. Skylight Committee – Thor Bahrman/Jerry Brandenburg**

- a. Road repairs

- E. Cornhole Committee – Mary Gratsch**

- a. Survey trip

- F. Sloans Valley Preserve Committee – Mike Herrington & Joe Morgan**

- a. New neighbor
- b. Logo versions for review
- c. Signage, Donation Pipe
- d. Old Greenhouse clearing?
- e. Emergency Contact Plan with Pulaski County
- f. Management Plan
- g. Cathy Crockett Memorial Trail ownership?

- G. Fundraising Committee Mary Gratsch**

- a. Karst-O-Rama

- H. Acquisition Committee**

1. New Committee Chair
2. Miller Family meeting?
3. Acquisition Report

4. Conservation Easement Committee Report – Janice Gott

I. NSS Preserves Program / MOU Committee – Gratsch, Gibson, Jud

- **Old Business**
 - Susan Neumeyer Archeology Research
 - Transitional Membership Clarification in Bylaws – **Proposed Amendment Below**
- **New Business**
 - December nominations for 2 Directors for March 2023
- **Next Meeting Date**
- **Motion to Adjourn**

Proposed Bylaws amendment. Added language is in red.

Bylaws Chapter III: Membership: Section A: 3. Transition Membership: A sustaining member making payments can arrange with the treasurer to apply payments towards a lifetime membership, *but not retroactively. Transitional payments shall cover the current life membership rate within a maximum of two years plus the annual dues rate for each year.*