

Friends of Rathdrum Mountain - Meeting Summary for 10/19/2006

Purpose: Regular monthly meeting of the Friends of Rathdrum Mountain and of the Board of Directors

Attendees:

- Directors: Wes DuCharme, Carey Kaplan, Toby Kaplan, Jim Ochenkoski, Deasa Stein
- Director absentees: George Holcomb, John Sylte
- Others: None

Agenda:

1. Guest speaker: None

2. Old business:

a. Jim reported that the City's draft Park & Rec Comprehensive Plan is being re-drafted as the Park Plan and should be available for review in mid-November. Dates for the public hearings to be conducted by the Parks & Recreation Commission, and then by City Council, have not been established.

b. No updates on the Frantz conservation easement. Marty did provide Attachment 1 via e-mail in regard to the mines and rare animal found in the area.

c. Carey and Toby provided a recap of the FoRM booth at the Heritage Fall Festival. Children's games were conducted as an enticement for parents to visit the booth. Visitors expressed a lot of interest in FoRM activities and many new contact names were obtained. The noxious weed control pamphlets that were provided by the Kootenai County Noxious Weed Control Department were very popular. A total of \$193.96 was received in donations for which several FoRM t-shirts and hats were provided. It was suggested that an updated aerial map would be good to have available for future displays.

3. New business:

a. Jim reported on the Chamber of Commerce's vote to oppose Prop 2. After some discussion, the consensus was that Proposition 2 was not in the best interest of FoRM. Toby agreed to prepare a letter to the editor for publication.

b. Jim reported that he addressed the Rathdrum City Council at their regular meeting on 10/10/06 and requested that FoRM be permitted to conduct a weed survey on the City's property with a representative from the Kootenai County Noxious Weed Control Department (KCNWCD). The purpose would be to determine the types of weeds present, their locations and density, and to recommend means of control. Council agreed and directed that we work out the details with City Administrator Brett Boyer. On 10/17/06, Toby met with KCNWCD's Linda Ely and they walked up the main access road on the City's property, observing the type and density of weeds along the way. Toby also used his handheld GPS to record their route and findings.

Linda will prepare a report for FoRM with her findings and recommendations. The next immediate action is to brief Brett on our findings and then brief City Council at their meeting on 11/14/06.

Another action is to contact the U of I Extension Office in Coeur d'Alene to determine if they have any interest in participating in weed monitoring and/or control.

4. Board of Directors:

a. The meeting summary from 09/21/06 was approved by vote in favor 5, opposed 0, with the exception of the Treasurer's Report.

b. Treasurer's report: The report published in the meeting summary from 09/21/06 was incorrect. This is a corrected report and reflects current balances:

Checking Account		
Beginning Balance		\$408.35
Debits	\$78.75	<i>canopy</i>
	\$162.75	<i>FoRM ball caps</i>
Credits	\$300.00	<i>Frantz contribution</i>
	\$163.96	<i>Fall Festival donations*</i>
Ending Balance		\$630.81

NICSC 501c3 Account		
Beginning Balance		\$1200.00
Debits	0	
Credits	0	
Ending Balance		\$1200.00

**Note: Only \$163.96 of the \$193.96 in donations reported in Item 2.c above is reflected in this report. The remaining \$30 will be reflected in the next Treasurer's report.*

c. FoRM's 501c3 application remains in process. Efforts are on ongoing to obtain a copy of the recent successful application of the Friends of Badger Mountain.

d. For future reference, the NW Land Trust Conference is scheduled to be held in Missoula, MT on May 17-19, 2007.

5. Next meetings:

Regular monthly meeting: Thursday, November 16th at 6:30 pm in the Community Center at Golden Spike Estates. Guest Speaker: TBD

Attachment 1: HISTORICAL SITE

KOKANEE GOLD MINE

In 1889, the Sheriff of Rathdrum, purchased Elk Mountain from the US Government hoping to find “the mother load”. The fantastic wealth created by the mines of the Silver



Valley enticed many miners to spend their fortunes looking for their own treasure, in the surrounding mountains of North Idaho. “Jackrabbit” and “High Grading” miners as they were called would pan the streams and rivers for gold and silver flakes that would break off a vein, uphill from the river or stream. After the vein was found and the Highest Grade ore removed, these miners would "hop" to another mine site repeating the process. Kokanee Gold Mine dates from 1890 to around 1910 and lay hidden for about

100 years until Alex Hargrave, while hunting squirrels, discovered the mine in 2006. This picture shows the actual vein the miners were working. You can see the quartz interlaced with the granite and the blasting holes. There are few 1800's unspoiled mines like the Kokanee Gold mine. While the veins are still deep underground, the true treasure today is the habitat these mines provide wildlife, that now call them home.

RARE ANIMAL SIGHTING

TOWNSEND LONG-EARED BAT (*Corynorhinus townsendii*)

The winter ecology and summer distribution of this species is under intensive investigation in Idaho as a result of concern about declining numbers observed at winter hibernation sites. With their long bunny rabbit ears, this rare bat ranks as being the cutest of the 44 bat



species found in America. It is the only mammal on earth that can truly fly, has a very shy personality and the major threat to its existence is from human persecution that leads to disturbance or destruction of roost sites. While listed in Washington State as an endangered species & threatened in Idaho, the mines that have been surveyed usually only yield from one to six individuals. Half dozen have been observed in the Kokanee Gold



Mine. In Idaho, individuals are sedentary and have a high degree of site attachment. Bats are largely misunderstood, are not carriers of rabies and are not blind. The Townsend bat can fly at very low speeds, almost hovering in flight. The females give birth to one pup after a gestation period of about two months. Pups are able to fly in 3 weeks and are weaned at 6 weeks. Their average life span is 16 years. Bats provide excellent insect control eating up to 1,000 insects an hour. The public is encouraged to recognize the inescapability and desirability of coexisting with bats in their neighborhoods, as well as how to minimize contact as they would with any other animals found in the wild. This site has been registered with the Idaho State Conservation Data Center.