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WF: Meeting minutes from May 23rd meeting

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Hi Walkers,

You are receiving these notes, taken by Joanne, because you have registered, whether you made it to the meeting or not. We had a nice group of about 24 people, all glad to be interacting with each other again in Elaine's nice yard. Something I would like to add that we talked about when Kari was reporting on the Memorial Fund, is a big thank you to Susan Dean for having done this job for many years, always acknowledging our member's losses when needed, gently and appropriately.

A few of us have tried out the 3 new walks suggested by Elaine that will be added to the schedule when it comes out for July and August: Sunset Pond, Squalicum Creek Park to Elizabeth Park and Barkley to Memorial Park. You will receive instructions for these walks in a separate email in a few days. As you know, the schedule includes specific information about where to park, but not the route itself, so these instructions will be important for the first WFs who do the walks.

Any feedback? Let me know.

Carol

Whatcom Walking Friends Annual Meeting – May 23, 2022

Carol Kleps called the meeting to order and introduced the other group leaders, Lynn Colson and Joanne Knittel. Lee Cole was not able to attend the meeting.

Lynn provided a brief financial summary. Due to limited operations during the Covid pandemic, dues have been optional in 2021 and 2022. Lynn reported that we were able to donate \$340.00 to Whatcom Land Trust and \$50.00 to WTA in 2022. Currently we have \$61.00 in cash. Some cash donations are required to pay the annual fee for the website. Joanne reminded the group that registration is required annually to be included in distribution lists.

Carol introduced Kari Copher who is our current Memorial Fund Manager. Kari reported that there has been one donation made this year, leaving enough funds to support three more donations. Kari explained that the Memorial Fund is funded by Walking Friends on an informal basis and is totally voluntary. Members can contact Kari directly to make donations at any time. It was stated that our memorial donations are made in memory of members and/or their close family.

We did an around the circle introduction of ourselves, taking the opportunity to reacquaint everyone after not seeing each other for a year or more. Many reported how many years they have participated in the Walking Group and expressed how happy they were to start walking with the group again.

As Lee was not present Carol led the discussion to gather ideas for Special Walks. The following ideas were proposed: Fairy Forest (Kari C), Agate Bay (Carole H), Columbia Neighborhood (Dianne D), UBC Anthropology Museum (Karen D) and Reifel Bird Sanctuary (Dianne D). Please contact Lee Cole if you have a special walk you would like to lead for the group.

Elaine Cress proposed the addition of three new walks to our schedule. The first is from Cornwall Park (Meridian Rd) to Sunset Pond. The second is from Barkley Village to Memorial Park. The third is from Squalicum Creek to Elizabeth Park. Elaine agreed to write a description of the path for each of the walks and Joanne will add the new walks to the list of Directions to Walks on the website and incorporate into the schedule starting on July 1.

Other discussion items (random order):

1. As there are some walkers who prefer to walk slower and shorter distances, it was agreed that at the beginning of the walk they would point that out and if others wanted to do the same they would pair up.
2. A vote by show of hands was taken to determine if start time for walks should change to 9 o'clock. The majority voted to keep the start time at 8:30 but perhaps relook at this in the fall and change start time to 9 during winter months.
3. Expand the schedule of walks to 6 days a week, in effect merging the Tues/Thurs/Sat group with the Mon/Wed/Fri group at 8:30. From a show of hands those present were okay with this. The leaders will discuss with Connie Crocker (from Tues/Thurs/Sat Group) and decide how to proceed.
4. It was agreed that when introducing a new person to our group it would be best to invite them to a walk and introduce them to other walkers. If the person seems like a good fit and wants to join the group send an email to Joanne Knittel with the person's name and email address. Joanne will send them a link to the registration form and provide Lynn's address for dues. Next year we will add an optional question on the form to ask how the person learned about the group for those who click the link directly from the website.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:30.

