

Whitley County Tourism Board

March 8, 2011
6:00 p.m.

Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Rich Prewitt.

A motion was made by Walden and seconded by Neal to open the meeting. All voted YEAH.

Roll Call: **Present**-Gray, Neal, Cooper, Prewitt, Walden, Egedi, and Director Adam Sulfridge.
Absent: Freeman

Sulfridge asked that some items on the agenda be moved forward as he needs to leave early. Neal made a motion to approve the agenda with the changes, Prewitt seconded and all voted YEAH.

Approval of minutes; motion by Neal, second by Gray. All voted YEAH

Dania Egedi was appointed to the Board by Judge White on February 9.

Director Sulfridge brought up that the Board has been receiving web solicitations. A motion was made by Egedi and seconded by Neal to ignore all web solicitations. All voted YEAH.

Monthly financial report; approved with a motion by Neal, second by Egedi. All voted YEAH.
Gray suggested that for the next two meeting the agenda be kept as light as possible since the Board will need to discuss the budget.

There was no payment of claims.

Floor business: The Director of the Cumberland Falls State Resort Park, Dave Jordan, discussed the problem of crime at the Falls and the potential impact on tourism. Sulfridge spoke with Whitley County Sheriff Colan Harrell about the crime problem at the Falls and other tourist attractions. Walden suggested the Board send a resolution to local law enforcement asking that criminals be prosecuted. Neal made a motion to present a resolution to all parties involved, Walden seconded. All voted YEAH. Sulfridge will draft the letter then e-mail it to the Board for approval.

Although Freeman could not be at the meeting, he had filed an application asking the Board for a donation of \$5,000 to the Bog in the Burg. Gray made a motion to approve the application. Cooper seconded, All voted YEAH.

Neal made a motion that for a business to qualify to be a tourist information spot they would have to file an application, be in business at least three years, and be open from at least April 1 to October 31 each year. Egedi seconded and all voted YEAH.

Neal made a motion to purchase a plaque for the Colonel Sanders park. A second was made by Egedi. Neal, Egedi, Gray, Prewitt, and Cooper all voted YEAH. Walden abstained.

Pam Gibson, Secretary and Treasurer of Friends of the Falls, explained some of the goals of the organization. She asked the Board to consider what we may be able to do to help with the National Championship Adventure Race. They will need musicians, crafts vendors and volunteers to give information to the racers, among other things. Information on the race can be found at usaranationals.com or usaranationals.info.com.

Dave Jordan gave an update on the beautification project at the Falls.

Tracy West asked the Board to donate \$100 each to the Cumberland Falls clean up and the Laurel Lake clean up. Motion by Neal, second by Walden to donate to both efforts. All voted YEAH.

Walden discussed the 2011 Youth Turkey Challenge. This is the fifth year the hunt has been held. Approximately 50 kids participate.

It was agreed to table the discussion regarding the fishing tournament equipment purchase.

In other Board business, Egedi had a request for information on mountain top removal sites.

A motion to adjourn was made by Gray and seconded by Neal. All voted YEAH