Beargrass Creek Alliance (BCA)

Minutes for Regular Meeting held January 18, 2021 held via Zoom

Attending: Ward Wilson, Linda Gugin, Jim St. Clair, Ed Allgeier, Dan Siebert, David Rummler, Rick Harned, and Mark Long.

**Election of officers:**

 Linda Gugin was elected president; Dan Siebert, vice president; and Jim St. Clair, secretary.

**Dr. David Wicks letter:**

David’s letter to Laura Mattingly, of the Army Corps of Engineers, and Erin Wagoner, of MSD, which detailed the overwhelming trash problem on Beargrass Creek and recommendations for possible solutions, was endorsed at the meeting. The letter recommends a comprehensive litter management and litter prevention plan for the creek. The letter notes that the accumulated trash not only prevents such recreational activities such as paddling, birdwatching and walking along Beargrass but also harms the biodiversity of the creek.

 The letter recommends, at a minimum, a management plan to regularly clean up the trash islands and other flotables was well as describing sources of the litter, how often the creek needs to be cleaned in what seasons; identifying specific responsibilities of local and state agencies; identifying the state-of-the-art equipment needed to safely and efficiently remove the litter and debris; and providing guidance on the removal of fallen trees and stumps that trap the litter and are obstacles to paddle sports.

 Also, the letter also outlines possible solutions to improving the condition of Beargrass Creek, including funding of regular and scaled up cleanups of the backwater sections of the creek, having an annual day, coinciding with the River Sweep, with both citizen cleanups and an industrial clean up using a barge to clean out all trash islands and the stumps and logs that create them. In addition, the letter recommends city government explore setting Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) limits for trash entering Beargrass.

 Dan Siebert said he would send a letter on BCA letterhead to Laura and Erin about our endorsement.

**Trash pick-up:**

A trash clean-up sponsored by the Forecastle Foundation is scheduled for Saturday, January 30 at Big Rock in Cherokee Park beginning at 10 a.m.