Beargrass Creek Alliance

Minutes for Regular Meeting held on November 18, 2019

The Beargrass Creek Alliance held its monthly meeting at the home of Dan and Ann Siebert. The meeting started at 7 :00 p.m.

Attending were:

Linda Gugin

David Rummler

Ann Siebert

Dan Siebert, President

Jim St. Clair, Secretary

Ward Wilson, Executive Director, Kentucky Waterway Alliance

Action items

Since we lacked a quorum, no votes were taken on any items discussed.

Discussions

Much of the meeting concerned the lack of attendance at the monthly meetings and at other BCA activities and programs despite the obvious interest in the organization. As Ward noted, BCA has approximately 1,000 followers on Facebook. The challenge is to transfer that interest into action, such as increasing attendance at monthly meetings and larger participation in BCA events and activities.

Ward is contacting various organizations, including the Gheens Foundation and the Louisville Water Company, for a grant that would fund a BCA coordinator who would develop and implement an outreach effort that would increase participation in the organization and its events and programs. Ward described the recently-started Louisville MSD project to develop a watershed plan for the Middle Fork of Beargrass Creek.

Another strategy discussed was the need to increase BCA’s presence at the events of related organizations. For example, Linda and Jim had a table for BCA at the Louisville Sustainability Council event on Nov. 1. It was a good opportunity to spread the word about BCA and its activities. A sizable number of people stopped by to ask about BCA and left with literature describing the organization and its programs. The event also opened the possibility to partner with related organizations on programs. For example, Cindi Sullivan, executive director/president of TreesLouisville, expressed interest in partnering with BCA on projects where our interests align. It was also suggested that Cindi be invited to speak at a future BCA meeting and follow that up by inviting others as guest speakers at subsequent meetings. For example, have someone with MSD or the Army Corps of Engineers to discuss the $3 million project to restore Beargrass Creek and/or someone with the Louisville architectural firm Gresham Smith to give an update on projects designed to improve access to and awareness of Beargrass Creek.

Linda also said BCA needs to keep in mind the work and recommendations of the Ignite volunteers who developed strategies for increasing participation in BCA, the Every Drop program in particular.

The meeting was adjourned at 8 p.m.