

Spring Creek Coalition Annual Meeting February 26, 2022 Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Beth Rooney shortly after 1pm on Saturday, February 26, at the Peggs Community Center. The meeting was attended by the following board members: Beth Rooney, Karen Harris, David Martinez, Bill Chambers, Mike Appel, Sandy Whitekiller, Chris Beckwith and Angela Brazeal. Absent were Travis Fite and Jennifer Donnelly. The meeting was attended by 45 adults, and two under 16 years of age.

A state of the coalition address and financial report were given by President Rooney. Rooney summarized SCC activities in 2020 and 2021, including tree planting, community creek clean-ups, and fund raising. She noted the ups and downs of working with lawyer David Page which resulted in changing legal counsel in December 2020 due to expanding lawsuit scope and unmanageable schedules and costs. She thanked members, volunteers and supporters. President Rooney brought Maddie Spencer forward to commend her for our amazing 2021 goal funding poster.

Finances: We brought in \$81,000 in 2021 from fund raisers, grants and memberships. We had expenses of \$48,700 largely for legal fees and water analysis costs. In reply to an attendee's question, President Rooney noted that we have an Accounts Payable of \$19,000 to our former attorney, David Page. Vice President Bill Chambers noted that this bill has not been paid because David Page will not communicate with us and will not talk about a payment plan.

SCC Attorney Matt Alison of the Indian and Environmental Law Group gave an update on current positive happenings related to our lawsuit and answered questions. Mr. Alison thanked the group for uniting and taking on this challenge against the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture to preserve Spring Creek's water quality, something an individual would not be able to do.

Bill Chambers, Water Monitoring Lead, and Bob Stewart, Water Monitor, gave the featured presentation. Bill invited everyone to join us on one of our water monitoring days. The next one will be Thursday, March 24, starting 9am at Spring Creek Country Store, corner of Ear Bob Road and Highway 82. Water Monitoring Dates will be posted on the website.

At the request of Jennifer Owen, President Rooney delayed the vote on Board Members until the end of the meeting, after community concerns could be heard.

Three members of the Spring Creek community contributed individually:

- Robin Perona--Land Owner Concerns
- Shawna Maag--Community Concerns
- Jennifer Owen--Scenic Rivers

Robin Perona spoke about her concern that the original 1996 bylaws were changed in 2011 in ways that transferred too much power from the members to the Board. Robin handed out a document that detailed changes made in 2011 that she and others feel need to be reversed. The group discussed the issue. Some asked why, given we have had the revised bylaws for over ten years without problems, is this an issue now? Jennifer Owen replied that it had only recently become apparent to her that the reason the board has been having problems with the concept of going by the rules is that there were not adequate rules in the 2011 bylaws; many had been removed from the original bylaws. She specifically mentioned rules about financial processes.

Shawna Maag spoke of several concerns some of which were: she feels Board Members need to be people who live on the creek 24/7 in order to know what the needs are and what goes on at the creek; board meetings need to be accessible to all; and money from donations should be spent helping individuals do needed things they can't do such as repairing erosion on their property rather than paying lawyers.

Jennifer Owen talked about how the Grand River Dam Authority assumed the Scenic River operation in 2016. Jennifer reported her attorney researched and prepared a paper on what he found concerning the Scenic River statute under GRDA, which Jennifer will give the Board to put on the SCC Website.

Ed Fite, Scenic Rivers Director from 1983-2016, noted that no river or stream has been added as a Scenic River since the original six due to landowner or special interest opposition.

Returning to SCC Business, Jennifer Owen spoke to tabling the vote for Directors until there can be more discussion about the bylaws and the original intent of Spring Creek Coalition. Member Debbie Whitfill spoke up about the need to follow Robert's Rules of Order and take a vote on the matter rather than having just one person saying what we should do. President Rooney agreed with Debbie and proceeded to follow Robert's Rules of Order.

Motion: A motion was made by Robin Perona and seconded to postpone the election of Board Members until further notice. The motion was taken by hand count. 18 voted for, 19 against.
Motion failed.

Karen Harris, Nominating Committee Chair, took over the election of Board Members. She first thanked departing Board Members George Kamp and Jessica Spencer and led a round of applause for their service. Karen introduced each nominee along with which section of Spring Creek they represented and suggested we vote for the slate as presented.

Motion: A motion was made by Jennifer Owen and seconded to vote for the new board members individually rather than as a group. The motion was taken by hand count. 11 voted for, 19 against.
Motion failed.

Motion. A motion was made by (person unidentified) and seconded to vote for the full slate of Board Members as presented. The motion was taken by hand count. 16 voted for, 6 against. (Note: Some members had left the meeting in protest before the vote was completed.)
Motion passed.

We congratulated new members Sandy Whitekiller, Mike Appel, and Chris Beckwith as well as continuing members David Martinez, Beth Rooney, Travis Fite and Angela Brazeal.

The meeting was adjourned around 3:30pm.
Minutes were prepared by SCC Secretary Angela Brazeal and President Beth Rooney