All Staff Meeting 12/4/19

Staff Present: Dennis Pilaske, Jamie Hockstra, Cari Marohn, Jenn Kirts, Lori Plante, Michelle Fournier, Isaac Wolfgang, Shane Kraus, Tom Lenon, Bruce Vaydik, Cathy Devendorf, Jennifer Dubey, Emily Butko, Steve Frisbee

Jenn Kirts- Madison’ report from preschool is that today the preschool swap is happening and students will be switching buildings for a change of scenery. There is a returning family open house at the NSB this Friday. Registration packets for preschool 2020/2021 are now available. Current and alumni placements will take place in January with new families being placed in February. Lindsey is setting fires for Homestead Holiday program but she reports that the box turtle will be starting his winter slumber and the black rat snake has some mouth issues we’re treating- both animals are currently unavailable for programs.

Jenn Kirts (continued)- For school programs we’ve had several days when the building has been quite full. Ready for Winter and Homestead Holiday are the main programs this time of year. For Homestead Holiday different staff will be starting fires early in the morning at the cabin and schoolhouse. The last day of school programs will be December 18 and on December 19 we will wrap up with an all staff potluck. Today is the first day of on-site historical interviews which will continue with two more taking place next week. Steve is doing a special story hour at Barnes and Noble on December 15 with crafts and activities. There is a coupon for this program and for anyone that uses it for any purchases that day, a percentage of those sales will go back to CNC. Emily Butko will be leaving us this winter as she will be moving on to Florida for the second half of her internship.

Michelle- The 2020 public program is done minus a few programs that we’re waiting on confirmations.

Steve- Audrey waterman is moving to Utah in January so Allie accepted the position of Assistant Day Camp Director. Haley Smith and Alison Duford expressed interests in being part of the leadership team. That leaves one position available for either Program Coordinator or leadership for the aftercare program.

Lori: Nothing much to report but it’s nice to see the annual appeals come in.

Cathy: Nature Art Show and sale is happening this weekend, Dec 6 and 7. All staff are members so come out to shop and enjoy treats for the member sale on Friday. Set up for the art show will take place as soon as school programs are done. By noon Friday the educator hallway needs to be cleared out for the artists to unload. Cathy is working on volunteer recruitment for December programs. As the year closes, make sure to turn in all volunteer hours to Cathy so that she can report them.

Jamie: Ashley’s last day is December 13. Please sign her card by Monday and join us in celebrating Ashley’s time at CNC with pie on 12/10 at 3pm. The entire 2020 calendar is now online. Ashley is working on setting up things for the new marketing manager. Resumes are due for the marketing manager are due on 12/13. Working on some directional signage, bid sheets and sponsor signs for the art show.

Tom: Trails- The deer harvest has slowed down and is currently at 32 (not including 6 from the new Arbury property) The Arbury trail bridge (over Arbury Pond) will be redone next summer. They are working on meeting with Pam Blough this Friday to start this project. The beaver are very active both at the Wetlands but also off the Chippewa Trail near the ball diamonds (which had water over the trail as a result). They are working with the City of Midland to control this issue.

Isaac- Trails are very wet so do not use golf carts on the trails. Oxbow loop is still closed- the water receded but the trail is very wet with a lot of tree debris. We had quite a bit of damage due to the ice storm but most is cleared out.

Dennis- Strosacker Foundation renewal of 3 year support for 2020-2022 Day camp and preschool scholarships - $30,000/year

Jenn- Strosacker Foundation also funded mini-grants for Great Lakes Bay Regional STEM initiative allowing CNC to extend programming in Bay City.

Tom- Incident reports- 11/20 lights left on in homestead barn

Natural History Sightings: Fox across the road on way to CNC, beaver damage, lots of down white pine branches, red fox on trail cameras but not as many gray fox, good coyote numbers

Kudos- Isaac, Zach, and Shane- helping clean out the very stinky dead animal freezer after we discovered the freezer quit working, Shane came in Sunday to help Bruce with snow/ice removal

Safety message from Tom- Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)- OSHA requires CNC to provide PPE which is kept in the woodshop (eyeglasses, ear protection, safety glasses). If anything needs cleaning there are alcohol wipes at that station. If anything breaks please let Tom or maintenance know. Other PPE includes face shields, hard hats, gloves and protective clothing (Chemicals or biohazards), respirators or face masks. There are also CPR barriers in all first aid kits. Goggles and face masks can also be found on the housekeeping carts.