

Friends of Belfast Parks Annual Report, 2008-2009

September 16, 2008: Quarterly membership meeting with election of officers for 2008-2009:

President, Carol Good; Vice President, Chris Urick;
Treasurer, Dale Kuhnert; Secretary, David Boyer

September 20: FOBP banner & tent at 104th Founder's Day of the City Park. Volunteers served refreshments.

October 2: FOBP hosts a dog park users' meeting. 28 attendees reviewed park rules, discussed likes and dislikes, and suggested improvements. We coordinate monthly maintenance days in fall, spring, and summer at the dog park, and we maintain a presence at the monthly meetings of the Belfast Parks and Recreation Commission. Volunteers were sought for upcoming events.

October 16: Organizational meeting and training for volunteers serving as greeters/monitors at the dog park.

November 28-9: Fundraising at the dog park directly soliciting donations garnered \$2059 towards the cost of the new pavilion, built by Jim Shaver, with contributions from Viking Lumber.

December 9: Quarterly membership meeting included discussion of creating a Friends of Belfast Dog Park committee analogous to our Arts in the Park committee, planning for a fun dog park fundraiser, serving as hosts to an upcoming regional parks & recreational group meeting, and co-hosting a speaker at the Hutchinson Center in the new year.

February 28, 2009: "Bowling for Biscuits" at the Lookout Point Bowling Center was a fun fundraiser that netted \$2000 toward maintenance of Belfast Dog Park.

March 10: Eastern Maine Recreation & Park Association Meeting at Steamboat Landing in Belfast. FOBP members served luncheon for this group, and provided a Powerpoint presentation for Jim Bell, Belfast Director of Parks and Recreation.

March 18: Quarterly membership meeting saw vote to begin a Friends of Belfast Dog Park committee analogous to Arts in the Park committee, with chair (Debbie Hockensmith & Dale Kuhnert were selected as co-chairs) to report to FOBP on quarterly basis. FOBP also pledged \$3000 to the new playground to be constructed in City Park.

April 4: 3rd annual "April Stools Day" pick up at Steamboat Landing, Heritage Park, and the Belfast Common. We "linked" with the Friends of Portland Parks, having their 17th annual pick up.

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April 27: Presentation—"It's Good to Have Friends" (Powerpoint and discussion) for annual conference of the Maine Recreation and Parks Association, Samoset Resort, Rockland.

May: Developed a public service video from April Stools Day to be broadcast on the local public access television channel.

May 31: "Playing it Safe at the Dog Park," a talk & slide presentation by Kate Dutra, dog trainer at Green Acres Kennel, Bangor. Dutra showed how to read canine body language to avoid stressful or dangerous situations.

June 20: Staffed a booth at Dogs' Day at the Maine Coast Welcome Center, Belfast.

June 23: Quarterly membership meeting. Reports on upcoming Arts in the Park and August 1 "Citizens' Summit on Parks". Discussion of possible role of FOBP in saving the McNally property for The Common, and claiming CMP property on the City's east side under a brownfields grant.

June 27: Prepared and distributed calendar of daily recreational activities for residents and visitors to recognize National Recreation Month (July).

July 11-12: 14th annual Arts in the Park was again well organized and well attended. This all volunteer event to support 80 artists and crafters remains the jewel in the July festival calendar.

August 1: Maine Citizens' Summit on Parks with keynote speaker Dr. John Crompton, a leading authority on the economic value of green space, drew an audience of 70 to the Hutchinson Center. Area outdoors groups had display tables and the conference concluded with a roundtable discussion of strategies which citizens groups could use in fighting to maintain and improve their community's green spaces. This conference was a collaborative project of FOBP, Senior College, Waldo County General Hospital, and Maine Recreation and Parks Association.

August 23: Provided refreshments for 105th annual Founder's Day Celebration (held in August this year) and the grand opening of the Children's Playground at City Park.

August 30: Provided tents and served refreshments for Sunday Concert at The Belfast Common by the Army Rock Band, sponsored by the Belfast Parks and Recreation Commission.

August 31: Grant application submitted to the American Parks and Recreation Society for the "2009 Citizen Initiative Grant", nominating our Citizens' Summit on Parks. Grant applied for by D. Hockensmith, D. Kuhnert, C. Good, and M. Carpenter on behalf of FOBP and Maine Citizen Summit Organization Committee.