

New Centeen Park diver benches:

Dive Tech supplied seed money to get the diver bench fabrication process started. Tom awarded the fabrication to Christof as the lowest cost option. The frames have been fabricated and painted and are currently being stored in Steve's garage pending installation. We are waiting for the approval to proceed from the city when we can meet with Conal. Dive Tech has generously agreed to fully sponsor two benches if required. An application was submitted and approved for an SOS Heritage Fund Grant for \$1500.00 to cover a third bench and help with installation costs. At least one of these benches must have the SOS logo and the "Take Only Pictures - Leave Only Bubbles" message to qualify for this grant. The plan is to have a separate plaque with this important SOS message on all three benches. As a primary sponsor we will also add the Dive Tech logo to these plaques.

The original plan was to have each bench individually sponsored by one company. Due to the unexpected high cost per bench, it was decided that we should accept partial bench sponsorship to include everyone. Action Scuba has generously agreed to donate \$500.00. It should be possible to issue tax receipts for cash donations; in kind donations are more difficult. Steve will confirm

Motion to approve \$550.00 cheque written to Christof for bench material

- Motion by Stephane Seconded by Sam Passed

Motion to approve \$300.00 cheque to Christof for bench labour

- Motion by Stephane Seconded by Sam Passed

Motion to proceed with ordering cedar and S/S fasteners once funding has been received

- Motion by Tom Seconded by Stephane Passed

Motion to proceed with ordering required installation materials and sponsor recognition plaques once funding has been received

- Motion by Tom Seconded by Stephane Passed

Installation of the bench bases can proceed as soon as we get locations approved by the city. We should have an answer this week. Sam will provide a tractor with post-hole auger to dig the holes. Details and dates for this work are not yet confirmed. Stephane, Tom and Steve have all volunteered to assist. We hope to have these benches completed by the May long weekend.

Sculpture Park: Dave is working on three, one finished two partially done. Tom is still looking into getting the area designated as a sculpture park. Dave will start working on large concrete fish head sculpture for buoy anchor. A heritage funding grant from corporate was applied for and approved. We have not yet received the funds. Dave and Steve will submit receipts for expenses related to sculpture fabrication for future reimbursement.

All Ships Festival: Canada's only Sculpture Park is mentioned under scuba diving. Dave is on the All Ships Festival committee and will represent SOS interests at this event. Dave is hoping to put our new sculptures in the water that weekend. Sunday June 21st. Dave will look into getting the transportation and lifting arranged. We hope to have 5 sculptures ready for that weekend.

Centeen Park Token Project: The drafted Memorandum of Understanding outlining the terms has been signed by Chris Phinney the President / Executive Director of Save Ontario Shipwrecks and was forwarded to Conal Cosgrove, Director of Operations for the city of Brockville. It has yet to be signed by the city.

It was agreed that we need to take a soft sales approach with this project and try to show the value in purchasing a token. We are hoping to accomplish this with our upfront investment of over \$5000.00 in new diver friendly benches and additional sculptures. After this year, park improvements will be mostly at the discretion of the city and will very much be impacted by the revenue this project generates.

We had a long discussion on the best sales model for the Dive Token Project. It was agreed that a commission sales model would have the best chance of success. Steve will draft up a sales contract to be signed when the tokens are handed out. This contract will simply stipulate the terms of sale and expectations of SOS on payment and return of unsold tokens. All tokens will be wholesaled for \$9.00 and retailed for \$10.00. Profits will be based on \$9.00 per token. Steve put together a container to store and market the tokens and will make more as required. At the meeting 50 tokens were given to Dianne and 150 to Tom to begin distribution.

To Do List

- Sign Memorandum of Understanding
- Draft and distribute commission sales agreement
- We need to finalize the bilingual sign ASAP and submit it to the city for printing
- Diane and Tom are working on the marketing plan and roll out of press releases
- Diane and Brian will set up SOS based web page with a separate url for this project.
- Diane came up with idea to plant signs in the sculpture park on the bottom

Want to See a Statue Here?

Buy a Dive Token

Tom will explore this excellent initiative.

- We are looking for volunteers to spend some time at Centeen Park for the all the weekends in May to promote SOS awareness and Diver Token project information sessions. Please contact Tom if you can help. We will be looking for more volunteers for the All Ships Festival weekend of June 20th.

Diver passport update: Steve is continuing to work on getting the information together and will soon be sending the latest version out to members for help with the missing information. The target is to get this printed before June 2015.

JB King Slate: Steve has revised the graphics and submitted the new design to corporate for approval and printing of a slate for the wreck of the J.B. King.

Sparrow Island: Tom received the okay from the City of Brockville to trim the brush around the anchor on land and also apply a new coat of paint and plaque. Brian Prince has a spare plaque.

Artifact Data Base: No updates

New Business:

Volunteer situation at the Aquatarium: Steve attended one of the Aquatarium Volunteer sessions last week and reported back. At the present time the Aquatarium is solely looking for volunteers willing to physically staff the Aquatarium in tour guide roles. Training will be provided but there is currently no opportunities to volunteer for any behind the scenes roles.

Donation Boxes:

Donation boxes are currently being made by Christof for Park's Canada. The cost is over \$300.00 each. There is a possibility that we may get a couple donated by Hewitt's.

Motion to adjourn by Sam

Passed

Reminder: Membership dues have gone up by \$10/year. This increase includes insurance so that all members can participate in ANY S.O.S event without the need to purchase additional OUC insurance. This saves you \$35.00 per year! S.O.S. events require all participants to be insured with OUC liability insurance and those rates have increased this year to \$45.00. This includes any volunteers, participants, and any travelling instruction (NAS training in a pool or on shore). Previously if one person was not insured, then the entire event was not insured which left everyone at risk. This new insurance that S.O.S. has secured ensures that any member in good standing and any volunteer (such as a crane operator or additional support) are also covered. The S.O.S board has covered a % of the insurance and has distributed the remaining cost over the membership. If you are still in a 2 year or a 5 year membership, when you renew you will see the increase, but you are covered for the remainder of your membership term. If you are unsure what your status is, I encourage you to sign into the SOS website and take a look at your Membership card to view your membership expiry date. If you need to renew, please renew!

Next meeting: 7 pm Tuesday May 12, 2015 at Bud's on the Bay

We have a lot of great things planned for 2015 and really need the support and participation of all members to make these things happen.