

## April 29, 2010 Meeting Minutes for the meeting between the Wilmington State Parks and the Delaware Climbing Coalition

### In attendance

- Wilmington State Parks: Barbara Woodford, Jennifer Sykes, James Wagner, another woman (name unknown)
- Delaware Climbing Coalition: John McMillan, Michael Hartman

Introductions were made. James Wagner is the new park administrator for Alapocas. James is the park administrator for two other Wilmington State parks, as well.

### **DCC Organization**

The status of the DCC's bylaws document was discussed. The park officials noted that this is one of the biggest hurdles to becoming a non-profit organization. Barbara inquired about a partnership between us and the Delaware Rock Gym and we indicated that there was no such partnership. Then our affiliation with the AccessFund was discussed.

### **Alapocas Run State Parks Rock Climbing**

Barbara mentioned that the AccessFund was hired by Ron Crouch to evaluate the safety of the rock walls.

The park will be installing a climbing information kiosk. The kiosk will have multiple surfaces where information will be posted. One side will be a semi-permanent depiction (possibly changed every 1-2 years) of the rock wall with all approved anchors. The other side will allow content to be updated more frequently. The target installation date is August 1.

Barbara mentioned how pleased they have been with the volunteers that have showed up for cleaning the rock wall and that their efforts were appreciated.

We talked about the new anchor installations and that 5 anchors were installed. An additional donation from Stewart Hawkins covered the cost of the 5th anchor. Barbara stated that she appreciated the donations of the DCC.

A 'missing' anchor set from the original anchor installations was recently found. It is to the left of the other anchors and is near the hiking trail that provides access to the top of the climbs. There is much foliage and poison ivy on the rock face below the anchor. The park has sprayed the ivy. The park believes it will need climbers to clean the face on rappel.

The rock wall land is owned by the city, but is leased by the state.

### **Visioning**

The parks department seems open to expanding climbing activities and areas. They want to develop a master climbing plan. Action Item: The DCC will research master plans from various sources, including the AccessFund.

There was a discussion regarding the types of anchors permitted. Currently, using gear anchors is not approved. This decision may be altered in December. James inquired about what types of anchors climbers are currently using and what is the safest means to utilize climbs between the existing anchors. Action Item: The DCC to provide a document describing the different types of climbing anchors, as well as the types of anchors permitted at other rock climbing areas.

Sport climbing is not allowed on "Grey Streak" or "Rambo". The sport climbing anchors on these routes have been determined to be unsafe / sub-standard and the park intends to remove the anchors on these routes.

There was a discussion about allowing bouldering in the Wilmington State Parks. The parks department wants more information from the bouldering community, such as where bouldering is desired. The parks department is not certain of the impact that bouldering has on the environment. In order to help approve this activity, we need to help educate them about impacts resulting from bouldering.

The parks department was excited about the DCC being the liaison between the climbing community and the Parks Department. We mentioned that we have several ways to reach climbers to send out information.

We discussed hosting an annual Adopt-A-Crag event at Alapocas. The park thought an Adopt-A-Crag event is a good idea. Action Item: Tim Spies, who coordinates volunteer activities for the park, will contact the DCC

regarding the Adopt-A-Crag event.

We discussed using the number of climbing permits as a gauge for how popular Alapocas is. The park seemed agreeable to providing this metric on an annual basis.

The park is interested in the DCC conducting a survey to find out who is using the wall and what improvements are desired.

The climbing permits will be modified to include the climbing rules.

Parking in the Bancroft Mills area has been a problem. People are not parking in the designated lot behind the chain link fence.

Rock wall cleaning – the park is interested in bringing in a fire truck to hose down and clean the wall.