

OFA Meeting Minutes – August 20, 2025

Attendance: Ron, Sandy, Lil, Rex, Bobby (online), Lori

Start time was 6:40 pm, after visiting and loading plates with snacks.

Secretary Minutes – approved

Treasurer Report: The account is currently at \$20,690.02

We discussed how well our events are going and how grateful we are for OFA volunteers. Thank you to our new volunteers Taryn, Tina, and Glynden, Kevin, Amy, and Danielle! They were a big help with the cave music event. Other awesome volunteers besides board members included: Alan, Barry, and Candy. Taryn started following Cathedral Cave Night Tours too!
MANY THANKS TO OFA VOLUNTEERS!

A quorum was present.

We held a vote on requests to have musicians Tim and Anna, from the 2025 cave music event, return for an October 18, 2025 event.

- Lil phoned Tim. He and the board discussed that this event would be more of a meditation event with a third person adding percussion and guided meditation to the harp and violin and vocals.
- This event will be very simple and will last 75 minutes in the cave, no intermission.
- We discussed asking for a \$30 entrance fee. Some details still to be determined.
- Besides being open to the public, we hope some local meditators will attend.

“Shall OFA have a musical meditation event with Tim Lilly’s trio in Onondaga Cave on October 18th”? All present voted yes, in favor of sponsoring the meditation event.

We held a vote about OFA getting a Zoom account. Lori applied for and received a 50% off non-profit rate. The cost will be \$6.66 per month. Paid annually, it will cost \$79.95. The hope is that this will help OFA grow.

**“Shall OFA purchase a Zoom account for \$6.66 per month, paid annually”?
All present voted in favor.**

Lori had asked Bobby about caving organizations working in areas that fit OFA’s mission of furthering interpretive education at Onondaga Cave State Park, in terms of donating to them.

- Bobby suggested three organizations: **CAIRN** - cave archaeology and research organization <https://cavearchaeology.org/> ; **Meramec Valley Grotto (MVG)** explores and discovers new caves, does conservation and clean-up of caves <https://www.meramecvalleygrotto.org/> ; **Stygian Grotto** – exploration, research, education, conservation in the Mississippi Valley Ozark Region <https://www.stygiangrotto.org/>

- We discussed possibility of donating needed caving instruments and/or cash donations. We will bring this up next meeting.

There was discussion about the cave rescue operation and training that Bobby is involved in developing. He will help the state park with training of staff and guides and will include the Friends group cave tour volunteers. Bobby suggested developing this very needed program over the winter. YES!

Bobby said that Chloe is going to lead her first off-trail cave tour in September!

We decided that Lori should reach out to Ian about the cave video, offering him a deadline to complete the changes discussed. (Lori last heard from him on July 2nd. Lori followed up with him on July 9 and July 14). OFA has only paid the first half of the video fee.

The Park's Wifi is fixed and greatly improved! It has gone from 5 megabits to 20 – Yeah! Sandy said it works at the pavilion, which would help us at events there.

Sandy asked if OFA wants to provide the movie rental at the amphitheater for the park's Halloween weekend. Tasha will look into the movies.

The next meeting is the 3rd Wednesday, September 17th at 6:00 pm. We will meet in person at the Visitor Center and on Zoom!

Adjourned at 8:15

August 2025 OFA meeting