

Board Meeting (via Zoom) Minutes June 16, 2022

Meeting was called to order at 4:03 pm

Present:

Donna Forsythe, Dave Minott, Ray LaPorte, Mark Bealafeld, Al Vander Peut, Dave Vanderwater, Adrienne Pichette, Jan Taylor, Kelly-Leigh Thomas, Lora Ellis, Kelley Malek, and Deb Hicks

Absent:

Sophia Sweeny, Jim Kemper, Michael McCaffrey, Jim Sweeny, Charlie Schudson

After welcoming and thanking the Board members for their service to the Club, Donna Forsythe, the newly elected Trail Boss for the 2022-2023 season, presented 4 items for vote.

1. Approval of the Appointed Officers

Motion: Mark Bealafeld moved that the slate of 15 appointed officers presented at today's meeting be approved to serve in their respective roles for the 2022-2023 season. Kelly-Leigh Thomas seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

The appointed officers for 2022-2023 are as follows:

Ranger (Forest Service Liaison): Amanda Maxwell
Roundup Boss (News Articles): Dick Williams
Old Timer (Historian): Sandi Heysinger
Sunbeam (Card Sender): Peg Cook
Point Rider (Webmaster): Clint Gelotte
Cliff Walker (Cultural Resources Education): Gary Morgan
Asst. Prospector (Membership): Kevin O'Connor
Asst. Point Rider (Webmaster): Al Gore
Asst. Cactus Dodger (Roughriders) Boss: Trish Travis
Asst. Mustangs Boss: Gary Morgan
Asst. Dogies Boss: Lisa Celeste
Asst. Drovers Boss: Hassan Hosseini
Asst. Rustlers Boss: Christina Loggia
Asst. Amblers Boss: Jon Petrescu
Asst. Trackers Boss: Tim Lowrey

2. Approval of the New Honorary Members

Motion: Ray LaPorte moved to approve honorary member status for Michael McCaffrey, Terri Petrescu, and Jon Petrescu as they have met the guidelines established in our by-laws. Jan Taylor seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the February 7, 2022 Board Meeting

Motion: Al Vander Peut moved to approve the minutes of the 2/7/2022 Board Meeting. Mark Bealafeld seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

4. Transfer of Bank Signature Authority

Motion: Mark Bealafeld moved that per the requirements of Wells Fargo Bank to remove Dave Minott as the Key Executive President of the bank account and to add Donna Forsythe as the Key Executive President of the bank account effective May 13, 2022. Jan Taylor seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

New Business

The following new business items were mentioned or discussed:

1. **In Person Meetings and Events** – There is a strong desire to return to in-person meetings and events. Several board members expressed interest in hybrid meetings allowing both in-person and online access. Donna will explore this possibility.
2. **Website Improvements and Updates**- The Pointriders, Clint Gelotte and Al Gore, have prepared a draft of proposed website improvements that was shared at a previous Board Meeting. The first item on the list is to obtain updated and better hike information in the database. Donna said she'd work with the hike bosses on this and bring back recommendations to the Board.
3. **Email "Sender" Change** – Currently, emails to the general membership from the Prospector come from a sender named "SW Prospector". During the past season, several members said they were not receiving Club emails. One possible contributing factor could be that members, especially new members, do not recognize the sender and might discard the email. To prevent this from happening, we will change the name of the sender to "Sedona Westerners" going forward.
4. **Time Capsule** – The Sedona Heritage Museum is putting together a time capsule and the Sedona Westerners are invited to participate. The Board discussed possible items to include. Suggestions included our commemorative 60-year anniversary bandana, an historic pin, patch, ball cap and/or hike book, and a list of the current elected officers. Contained within the Trail Boss archives, might be some worthy items for inclusion. Donna will investigate and get back with the Board on this matter.

5. **Red Rock News Articles** – It has been a long-standing Westerners’ tradition to provide written hike articles to the Red Rock News on a weekly basis during the hiking season. Donna expressed concern that it is often a difficult task to solicit stories. The Round-Up Boss (Dick Williams) and the hike bosses often must exert some pressure on people to write articles, which can be uncomfortable for them and members alike.

We want to keep this tradition alive, of course, but we also want to find ways to distribute the responsibility across the organization to lighten the load and pressure.

Ideas proposed include:

- The first and last article of the season written by the new and outgoing Trail Bosses respectively,
- Each hike boss take responsibility for generating 5 articles per year.
- The Wagon Boss contributes an article on the upcoming speaker programs and/or review a program recently presented,
- Re-print one historical article per month to create a then and now perspective.

Donna will work with Dick Williams and with the hike bosses on these suggestions and report back to the Board.

6. **Ranger News** – Ray (Wagon Boss) reported that Amanda Maxwell (Ranger), Kelley Malek (Drover Boss), and he met with Brady VanDragt, who is the Volunteer Partnership Coordinator for the Red Rock Ranger District of the US Forest Service. Ray reported that the meeting served as an introduction of Amanda as the new Westerners Ranger, it set a positive tone for a strong partnership with the Forest Service and communicated that the Westerners are available to help with trail closures and maintenance when needed.

The Forest Service requires a non-binding agreement to perform these activities. When such an agreement is presented, it will be brought to the Board for discussion and vote.

7. **Coconino National Forest Request for Public Comment** – On June 13, 2022 the Coconino NF published a news release seeking public comments on proposed fee changes at six recreation sites. The proposal would require a Red Rock Pass parking pass on these trails parking lots: Bell, Bruce Brockett, Dry Creek, Fay Canyon, Lava Cave, and Mescal. Non-pass holders would pay a \$5 day use fee.

Public comment is sought. The attached news release provides the contact information for comments.

Questions for the Board:

Should this announcement be sent to the general membership so people can respond individually if they so choose?
Should we, as a club, respond collectively as well?

Tabled Item: The Board decided to table this issue until a smaller group of members could discuss the issue, then return it to the Board for consideration and further discussion.

8. **Hike Boss Meeting** – There will be a Hike Boss orientation and training meeting on Tuesday, June 21, at 4 pm.
9. **Ice Cream Social** – An Ice Cream Social will take place on Sep 8, 2022 at 5:30 pm at the Posse Grounds Park in lieu of a regular general membership meeting that month.
10. **Dues for Next Season** - Al noted that there wasn't a vote taken to establish the dues amount for next season. Mark gave a summary of our financial status and recommended that dues stay the same for the next fiscal year. He noted, however, that cost per member slightly exceeds dues per member, but that our cash balance is more than adequate to fund the difference.

It was decided that the most recent Foreman's report will be sent to Board members for their review, Mark will provide an analysis of current financial status. and that a decision on dues amount would be made via email vote. Donna will send this information to the Board asap.

Adjournment: As no one had additional new business items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 5:06 pm.

Due to the absence of the Wrangler, these notes were compiled by Trail Boss, Donna Forsythe