

Sedona Westerners Board Meeting - August 17, 2022

Meeting called to Order – 4:05 pm on Aug 17, 2022

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

Absent: Sophia Sweeny, Jim Kemper, Lora Ellis, Jim Sweeny, Michael McCaffrey

Agenda

1. Approve Board Meeting Minutes from the June 16 Meeting
2. US Forest Service – Volunteer Service Agreement (VSA)
3. Sedona Heritage Museum Time Capsule
4. Covid Status and Hike Rules
5. Happenings

Approve the June 16, 2022, Board Meeting Minutes including the latest Foreman's Report. Motion to approve was made by Mark and seconded by Al and was approved unanimously.

Approve the Forest Service Volunteer Service Agreement. After discussion, motion to approve signing the agreement was made by Al and seconded by Jan. The motion carried unanimously.

Time Capsule – After discussion, consensus was that we'd like to participate in the Sedona Heritage Museum's project and deposit the revised edition of the book, "Those Early Days" published by the Westerners in 1975 into their time capsule to be opened in 2062.

We still need to locate a copy of the book and find someone to write the accompanying story for consideration by the Museum. Suggestions were made and Donna will contact Sandi Heysinger for assistance in coordinating this project. Deadline is 9/30/2022.

Hike Rules

Edits to the hiking rules and sign-in sheets were proposed and approved by the Board.

Al suggested we explore whether reading the rules at every hike is necessary. Like the waiver, hike rules are posted on the website and could be simply referenced at sign-in with a modification such as,

"Everyone hiking today must sign the hike register, have completed and signed a waiver, and have read and agreed to the hike rules".

Several members objected stating that rule reminders were necessary. Nonetheless, Donna will get a legal opinion, but in the meantime new rules were discussed and approved.

New COVID related rules to replace the existing 2021-2022 rules.

- DO NOT HIKE if you are experiencing fever or flu-like symptoms; wait until your fever or symptoms have resolved.
- If you have tested POSITIVE for COVID, or any other infectious disease, please follow CDC guidelines.
- We encourage any Westerner who has had an exposure to a COVID-infected person, or is having symptoms, to strongly consider COVID testing.

Motion and second to approve the COVID rules was made by Jan and seconded by AI and carried unanimously.

Hiking Rules – These will replace the existing rules and will read as follows:

- Everyone hiking today must sign the hike register and must have completed and signed a waiver.
- Photos and GPS tracking are allowed on SW hikes; however, publishing photos, maps, tracks, or coordinates, or identifying sensitive areas such as ruin sites and rock art, is strictly prohibited. This restriction includes print media and internet web sites. Set GPS tracking and trail mapping app to private, not public.
- HIKERS MUST:
 - Practice a Leave-No-Trace policy, avoid sensitive soil, and respect wildlife.
 - Have sufficient water (at least two liters, more on hot days), and wear lugged-soled hiking boots.
 - Stay between the leader and tailgater at all times.
 - Silence cell phones and refrain from using them while hiking except for taking photos. In case of an emergency, use phones only with the leader's consent.
 - Notify the Leader immediately of illness, injury, or of any special medical needs.
- All hikers are expected to complete hikes. In the case of illness or injury, a hiker may leave the hike with the consent of the Leader if accompanied by two people, at least one of whom knows the trail.

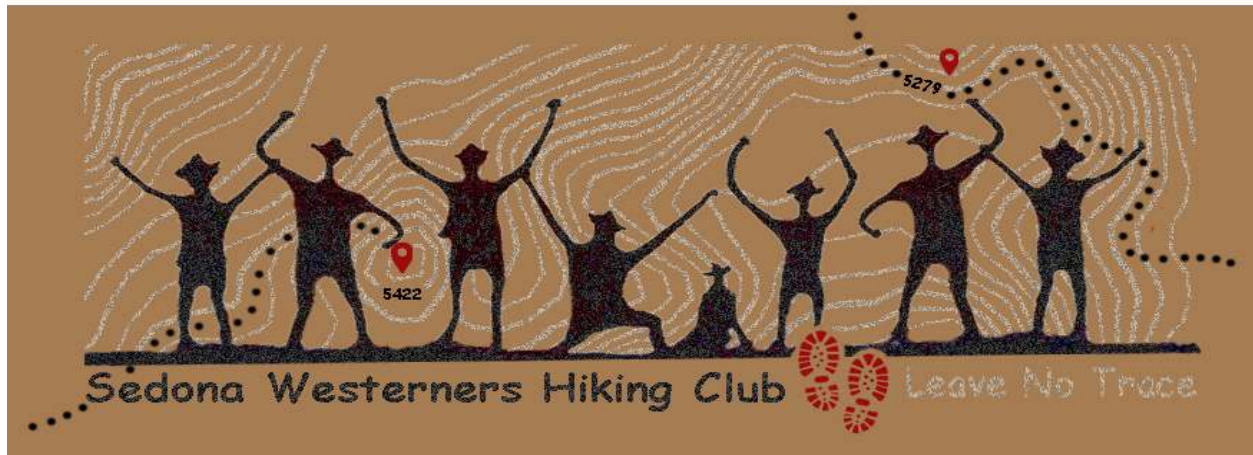
Motion and second to approve these edits was made by Ray and Kelly-Leigh and carried unanimously.

Happenings

Ice Cream Social – Coming up Thurs Sept 8 at 5:30p. Please attend. Hike bosses will provide hike reports and generate excitement about the new season!

Holiday Party – Reservations made for Thurs Dec 8 at the Oak Creek Country Club where we have hosted holiday parties in the past. We're still looking for DJ or band. Several suggestions were made.

T-Shirts – Amanda Maxwell created the shirt design below. The Board was in favor of moving forward with this design and selling shirts to members. They suggested we investigate various shirt fabrics, and styles. Amanda will follow up with shirt vendors. Logistics of the purchase and sale still to be determined.



Goals for 2022-2023

Donna listed some goals and priorities she has for this year. The theme is about increasing camaraderie, engagement, and participation in the club. After more than two years in relative isolation it's time to bring us back together with in person meetings and parties.

Priorities:

- Update and revise website to make it more user friendly with Clint Gelotte (Pointrider).
- Update and expand the hike database – 430 of 800 hikes don't have tracks
 - Workshop for hike bosses and leaders on how to use GPS tracking and to make trail maps hosted on Sept 1 4pm via Zoom. You're invited!
- Encourage more members to lead hikes; expand the "pool" of hike leaders by creating scout groups or other ways to teach members to lead.
- Support Trackers in developing their expanded programs

New Business

- Kelly-Leigh suggested we ask for a revision to the 2014 Letter of Agreement (LOA) we have with the Forest Service which prohibits Westerners from visiting ruin sites off Boynton Canyon. She pointed out that tourists and other groups visited often, and they are much more likely than Westerners to deface ruin sites. We are the better stewards.

Donna asked that Ray work with Amanda on this issue.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm after motion and second was made by Kelly-Leigh and Adrienne.

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