

Board Meeting (via Zoom) Minutes
September 22, 2021
Regarding COVID issue
and Other Email Votes

Attendees: Dave Minott, Donna Forsythe, Sophia Sweeny, Mark Bealafeld, John Losse, Judy Dolloff, Harry Strong, Ray LaPorte, Jim Sweeny, Patti Pierce, Charlie Schudson, Al Vander Peut, Terri Petrescu.

Absent: Michael McCaffrey, Dave Vanderwater, Ken Ferguson, Linda Shook (Ray LaPorte subbed in for her), Patty Persons.

Note: an email was sent out to Sedona Westerners Board Members on September 15, 2021 alerting us to a potential COVID incident.

- A person who hiked with the Amblers on September 9, had contacted the Westerners on September 14th saying that they developed cold-like symptoms two days after the hike, and that the person believes it to be COVID.
- COVID is not certain, and the person declined to get tested.
- Said person did carpool, and those who were in the vehicle were notified.
- This Board meeting is to review, discuss and potentially revise COVID policies/guidelines.
- The following was attached to our email – the notification that was sent out September 16th (delay was due to contacting the Prospector, who was out of the country):

Email Subject:

IMPORTANT COVID ANNOUNCEMENT

There may have been exposure within the Westerners recently to a COVID-infected person. As Trail Boss, I want to provide our membership here with the relevant information.

A Westerner who hiked with the Amblers on September 9 reports developing cold-like symptoms on September 11-12 which she believes are due to COVID. However, we don't know whether this was COVID or something else as she has declined to get a COVID test. Fortunately, she reports feeling better on September 14. Erring on the side of caution, we must assume that those who hiked with the Amblers on September 9 were hiking with a person who may have had COVID. In addition, some who hiked with the Amblers on September 9 have also hiked since with our other hike groups. Accordingly, all actively-hiking members of the Westerners are being informed here of these facts. Relevant CDC guidance in this circumstance is that vaccinated people do not need to quarantine, but should monitor for symptoms, and should get a COVID test if they have a concern. Unvaccinated people, however, should quarantine for 14 days. Per the CDC, hiking outdoors inherently carries a low transmission risk for COVID compared with indoor settings, which is reassuring in this case.

Consistent with CDC guidance, our current plan is that hiking can continue. The decision to hike or not is a personal one. There are some additional, specific guidelines to be followed until September 23:

- Vaccinated Westerners can hike as usual, but they must refrain from carpooling until September 23.
- Any vaccinated Westerners who develop possible COVID symptoms should not hike and should promptly report the symptoms onset to the Trail Boss.
- Unvaccinated Westerners should refrain entirely from hiking until September 23.
- The Amblers have cancelled their September 16 hike, but plan to resume on September 23.

The September 23 date cited above is 14 days after the September 9 Amblers hike where COVID contact may have occurred. If there has been no evidence by September 23 of COVID symptoms developing within the Westerners hiking groups, this would be a credible indicator that the September 9 Amblers hike did not result in COVID spread within the club. However, if there should be any indications of COVID spread within the Westerners over the coming week, I will provide updated information to the membership accordingly.

Let's be mindful and careful as we enjoy our hikes.

Dave Minott

Trail Boss

[Also submitted to the Board members were Current COVID Guidelines and Rules, Medical and Legal Input, and Amblers Commentary on the Incident]

Board Meeting, September 22, 2021

Dave Minott opened the meeting at 4:08 pm

There was opportunity for all to discuss their concerns. There was consensus on some changes to our Hike Sign-in that the Board would like to have made, with the motion by Charlie Schudson (2nd by Patti Pierce), that a committee consisting of Al Vander Peut, Dave Minott and Sophia Sweeny convene to summarize the points that were presented, and the result would be emailed to the Board members to vote on passing. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed. After this vote, some members had to leave and we no longer had a quorum.

Meeting adjourned at: 5:23 pm (Motion by Mark Bealafeld, 2nd by Sophia Sweeny).

Meeting of Committee to Summarize COVID Board Changes to Hiking Rules, September 24, 2021

Attendees: Al Vander Peut, Dave Minott, Sophia Sweeny

Convened at 10 am:

The committee discussed the wording of several sections of the COVID guidelines Hiking Rules. The result, being the following document that was emailed to the Board on September 25, 2021:

The revised COVID guidelines, which would appear on the Hike Sign-in Sheet as well as under Hiking Rules on the website, are as follows:

Revised COVID Guidelines

- All Sedona Westerners are strongly encouraged to be vaccinated.
- DO NOT HIKE if experiencing fever or flu-like symptoms, or if you have been exposed to someone with known COVID. Under these circumstances, strongly consider getting tested and reporting the test results to the Trail Boss.
- IF UNVACCINATED, do not hike for 10 days if you suspect you may have been exposed to someone with COVID, unless you get a negative test result.
- If UNVACCINATED for COVID, it is strongly recommended to wear a mask during the hike meet-up and sign-in, and to refrain from car-pooling.
- When hiking, all hikers should avoid physical contact and they should not share food.

The Board reviewed the committee's Revised COVID Guidelines and had 48 hours to vote on this, with the results being:

YES - 13 votes, NO - 1 vote, ABSTAIN – 1, Did Not Vote - 2

There was a majority. The Revision passed.

Holiday Party – Vote Needed

Via email on October 25, 2021, Trail Boss, Dave Minott, proposed that the December 2021 Holiday Party be cancelled due to an inability to follow pertinent, CDC guidelines for COVID protection if the Party were held. He requested an informal vote of the Board in this regard as the initial step, with a formal Board meeting via Zoom to follow to enable discussion/debate, only if the informal Board vote were close. As the Board's informal vote was more than two-to-one to cancel the Holiday Party (Cancel Party - 10 votes; Hold Party - 4 votes), further action via a formal Board meeting was deemed unnecessary. Per the guidance of the clear majority of the Board, the Trail Boss will cancel the 2021 Holiday Party.

New Drivers' Boss – Vote Needed

On October 25th, Trail Boss, Dave Minott emailed the Board that our Drivers Boss, Linda Shook regretfully had to step down as Hike Boss, due to health and work issues. The Assistant Drivers Boss, Ray LaPorte, had agreed to take on the responsibilities, with Amanda Maxwell as his Assistant.

The vote was for the following: "I approve Ray Laporte becoming the Drover Hike Boss, and Amanda Maxwell becoming the Assistant Hike Boss, as of October 25, 2021."

The vote tally was as follows: YES - 12; NO - 0; and DID NOT VOTE - 4. The vote was unanimous. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Sophia Sweeny
Wrangler