

## **Board Meeting (via Zoom) Minutes February 7, 2022**

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

Absent : Michael McCaffrey, Ken Ferguson, Patty Persons, Charlie Schudson.

Board Guest: Clint Gelotte (speaking on the Sedona Westerners' website)

Dave Minott opened the meeting at 4:02 pm

### **Vote to Approve Executive Board Meeting Minutes**

*"I hereby make the motion to approve the minutes of the Board Meetings held on: December 9, 2021".  
Motion was made by Ray LaPorte and seconded by Donna Forsythe.*

The vote was unanimous. **The motion carried.**

**Action item: The Executive Board Meeting Minutes for 8/18/2021 and 9/22/2021 have been approved.**

### **Chair of the Nominating Committee**

The immediate past Trail Boss normally chairs the Nominating Committee for recruiting the next season's Elected Officers. As Trail Boss, Dave Minott, nominates Terri Petrescu to chair the Nominating Committee.

*"I vote to approve Terri Petrescu, who is the Immediate Past Trail Boss, to chair the Nominating Committee for recruiting next season's Elected Officers." Motion was made by Al Vander Peut and seconded by Patti Pierce.*

The vote was unanimous. **The motion carried.**

**Action item: Immediate Past Trail Boss, Terri Petrescu, will Chair the Nominating Committee responsible for recruiting next season's Elected Officers.**

### **Red Rock Trail Fund Campaign**

Our donation campaign launched on January 14, 2022. Donation status as of February 6, 2022:

- \$9,000 in donations by Westerners to date (\$8,000 by Members; \$1,000 by the Westerners organization through Trail Keepers)

- \$2,000 in expected future donations: \$1,000 pledge by a long-time Westerner, plus a \$1,000 match by the Trail Keepers.
- At \$11,000+ projected in 2022, we are doing well, compared with the 2021 donation total of about \$7,000. And in 2021, we did much better than the prior year.

Our 2022 donation campaign will end on February 15.

### **Trailhead Parking Bans and New Sedona Shuttle Bus Service**

The City is implementing a shuttle bus system beginning in March to serve the Cathedral, Soldier Pass, Little Horse, and Dry Creek (Devil's Bridge) Trailheads. It will operate Thurs – Sun, 8:00 AM to 6:30 PM. The Forest Service plans to close the Cathedral and Soldier Pass parking lots Thurs – Sun, during hours when the Shuttle operates.

Judy Dolloff and Dave Minott spoke on Dec 15 with the City's Transit Administrator, Robert Weber, about whether the Westerners might be given special access to the closed parking lots, given the large size of our hiking groups. Mr. Weber was not optimistic that the Forest Service would agree to this. So, it appears we will need to devise our own work-arounds for using the Cathedral and Soldier Pass trailheads.

The Board plans to continue monitoring the parking-ban and shuttle-service plans as they evolve over the coming months.

During the Dec 15 discussion, Mr. Weber invited someone representing the Westerners to sit on the City's Transit Advisory Committee, in order to keep us in the loop regarding trail access for our large hiking groups.

*"I hereby make the motion to authorize Judy Dolloff to engage with City of Sedona officials via City committee membership or informally regarding the interests of the Sedona Westerners in the City's transportation planning as pertains to trailhead parking and access." Motion was made by Al Vander Peut and seconded by Ray LaPorte.*

The vote was unanimous. **The motion carried.**

**Action item: Judy Dolloff will represent the Sedona Westerners on the City's Transit Advisory Committee.**

### **Another New, Forest-Service Trailhead Project**

The Forest Service announced last month that it will construct expanded parking and a new trail-access point for the Mescal Trailhead area. Construction has begun across the road from the Mescal parking area.

Goals of the project:

- Alleviate traffic and parking congestion along Dry Creek Rd. (Devil's Bridge) and Long Canyon Rd.

- Provide a new access point to the following trails: Devil's Bridge, Mescal, Chuckwagon, Long Canyon, and the Secret Mountain Wilderness.

There is currently no indication of any new plans for alleviating Boynton Trailhead parking congestion.

## **Website Improvements – A Summary**

Clint Gelotte, the architect of our website, summarized needed improvements to the user interface for our website that he is making, coordinating that effort with Pointrider, Al Gore. There was discussion of the need for Hike Bosses and hike leaders to make a specific effort to ensure that all hikes in the Hike Database have gps tracks.

No Board vote is needed, as there is no money expenditure involved and no change being made to the content of the website.

## **Surprise Canyon**

Michael Henry, Ranger, summarized the history of the Westerners doing the Surprise Canyon hike (aka Honanki Overlook hike), which has a notable rock-art panel. Given that the agreements we have with the Forest Service do not preclude visiting this site, and that we have specific, protective protocols in place when visiting archaeological sites, discussants agreed that the Westerners can continue to take this hike.

## **Bylaw Changes – Next Steps**

Over the past year, a number of needed or requested changes to our By-Laws have been proposed. The Board voted to approve these bylaw changes at its August 18, 2021 meeting. Per the Bylaws, these proposed changes must next be simply presented at a monthly meeting, then put to a Membership vote at a subsequent monthly meeting. Trail Boss, Dave Minott, has emailed a summary of the proposed Bylaw changes to all Members ahead of the Feb 10, 2022 monthly meeting, and will then note at the meeting that he has done this. He will then call for a Membership vote at the Mar 10 monthly meeting.

## **COVID**

So far, no apparent need to amend our current COVID guidance. COVID spread rate is now falling rapidly after the holiday travel period, as happened last year, 2021. True nationally and in AZ. Currently, there has been no known instances to date of COVID transmission as a result of Westerners activities.

There was no new business.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Donna Forsythe and seconded by Patti Pierce. The meeting was adjourned at 5:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sophia Sweeny, Wrangler