

SEDONA WESTERNERS MONTHLY MEETING

FEBRUARY 10, 2022 – VIA ZOOM

Call to Order – Welcome

Trail Boss, Dave Minott, welcomed both new and returning members to our monthly meeting, starting the meeting at 7:16 pm.

Sedona Red Rock Trail Fund (SRRTF)

Our annual donation campaign launched January 15th and is going well, so far. Thank you to those who have donated already. For those who have not yet had a chance, please note that the campaign ends on February 15th. A final reminder email providing you the donation link was sent out today. Our donations this year will help fund the much-needed reconstruction of the upper Cathedral Rock Trail. Please donate generously. Additionally, the Westerners, as an organization, have made a \$1,000 donation from our bank account, as in past years. This year, our \$1000 donation will earn a \$1000 match!

Bylaw Changes

The Board voted to approve a number of Bylaw changes at its meeting of August 18, 2021. Per our Bylaws, the proposed changes must be presented to Members at a monthly meeting, then voted upon by the Membership at a subsequent monthly meeting. Accordingly, the Trail Boss, Dave Minott, has emailed a summary of the proposed Bylaw changes to all Member on February 3rd. Please read the summary before our March 10th general meeting, which is also listed below:

For Review by Sedona Westerners Members
PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE BYLAWS
David Minott, Trail Boss - February, 2022

BACKDROP

The Board of Directors voted to approve a number of Bylaw changes at its meeting held August 18, 2021. According to our Bylaws, the next step is for the proposed Bylaw change to be presented as information only at a Monthly Meeting of the Membership, then at a subsequent Monthly Meeting, discussed and voted upon.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES AND APPROVAL PROCESS

The proposed Bylaw changes are presented here as information for review by the Membership. Our having provided all Members this initial review opportunity will be noted at the Monthly Meeting to be held on February 10. Then at the next Monthly Meeting to be held on March 10, Members will vote on accepting the Bylaw changes, after being afforded an opportunity to comment and ask questions. So, hold any comments/questions for the March meeting.

PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES

1. HISTORIAN POSITION

Proposed Bylaw Amendment:

- Motion Passed by Board 8/18/2021: "I hereby make the motion to amend Article 15 of the Bylaws to change the name of the Historian to Old Timer, the traditional name of the position."

- Reason for Bylaw Change:
- The Member serving in this position several years ago requested the name be changed to Historian, preferring not to be referred to as the Old Timer.
- Recently, another a long-time member interested in preserving our history/traditions requested the Board to consider restoring the traditional name, Old Timer. The current Historian approves restoration of Old Timer.

2. ADD ASSISTANT HIKE BOSSES TO APPOINTED-POSITIONS LIST

Proposed Bylaw Amendment:

- Motion Passed by Board 8/18/2021: "I hereby make the motion to amend Article 15 of the Bylaws to add the following position by name: Assistant Hike Bosses (Assistants to the Hike Bosses for the Roughriders, Dogies, Drivers, Amblers, Mustangs, Rustlers, and Trackers)"
- Reason for Bylaw Change:
- The Assistant Hike Boss position should be included in the list of Appointed Positions, having evolved into a key, Appointed Position. The position provides essential back-up to the Hike Boss and serves as a training opportunity for future Hike Bosses.

3. UPDATE POSITION DESCRIPTION – IMMEDIATE PAST TRAIL BOSS

Proposed Bylaw Amendment:

- Motion Passed by Board 8/18/2021: "I hereby make the motion to amend in Article 11 of the Bylaws the description of the duties of the Immediate Past Trail Boss to add the following sentence: The Immediate Past Trail Boss normally serves as Chair of the Nominating Committee that recruits nominees to serve in the Elected Offices during the next hiking season."
- Reason for Bylaw Change:
- Article 11, as currently written, misses a key annual duty of the Immediate Past Trail Boss.

4. UPDATE POSITION DESCRIPTION – CLIFF WALKER

Proposed Bylaw Amendment:

- Motion Passed by Board 8/18/2021: "I hereby make the motion to amend Article 15 of the Bylaws to read as follows as regards the Cliff Walker position: Cliff Walker (Coordinator of Cultural Resources Education). The Cliff Walker is the overall "Ambassador" of the Club, specifically to the archaeological personnel of the Coconino National Forest. In addition, the Cliff Walker provides consultation to Hike Bosses and Leaders, on teaching proper site etiquette. Term of office is two years."
- Reason for Bylaw Change:
- Existing Version for comparison:
"Cliff Walker (Coordinator of Cultural Resources Education). The Cliff Walker is the overall "Ambassador" of the Club, specifically to the archaeological personnel of the Coconino National Forest., and arranges for cultural heritage experiences for Club members. In addition, the Cliff Walker provides consultation to Hike Bosses and Leaders, on teaching proper site etiquette. Term of office is two years.
- The proposed change deletes from the job description that the Cliff Walker "arranges for cultural heritage experiences for Club members." The incumbent Cliff Walker, Jon Petrescu, and the current Cliff Walker, Gary Morgan, both approve of the proposed change. The Trackers now arrange for cultural heritage experiences

The Members will vote on accepting the Bylaw changes at the next monthly meeting on March, 10, 2022.

Votes (Foreman's Report, Monthly Meeting Minutes)

Our Treasurer is called the Foreman, who is presently Mark Bealafeld. The **Foreman's Monthly Reports** for the month of January 2022 were posted on our website for review by our members. Motion to approve the Foreman's Reports was made by Donna Forsythe and seconded by Patti Pierce. The vote was unanimous. **Motion approved.**

The **Minutes of our last Monthly Meeting held January 13, 2022**, as a "draft" posted on the website by our Wrangler, Sophia Sweeny, also needs Membership approval. Motion was made by Ray LaPorte and seconded by Patti Pierce. The vote was unanimous. **Motion approved.**

Hike Boss Reports

Amblers Boss:	Judy Dolloff
Cactus Dodger (Roughriders Boss):	Ken Ferguson (Absent) – no report
Dogie Boss:	Harry Strong
Drover Boss:	Ray LaPorte
Mustang Boss:	Jim Sweeny
Rustlers Boss:	Patti Pierce
Trackers Boss:	Dave Minott read report for Charlie Schudson (Absent)

Bosses thanked those who led, co-lead and tailgated on the past month's hikes, gave information on the criteria for their level of hikes, and shared news of some upcoming hikes.

Note: The Trackers are currently in the early planning stages for 2 or 3 additional Tracker events for late winter and spring. These include expert-led visits to local bird sanctuaries and to the impressive rock-art wall at Loy Canon. He may also offer his hiking seminar once more in an intensive one-day format. More information to follow.

Officer Reports

Prospector (Membership, Michael McCaffrey): Membership is up to 390, of which 138 are new members and 33 are honorary members. We are delighted to note that not only is the total number at this time above last year's, but it is also greater than that of 2 years ago.

Foreman (Treasurer, Mark Bealafeld): Our Treasurer related our current financial picture.

Sunbeam (Sunbeam, Peg Cook): Absent, no report.

Ranger (Forest Service liaison, Michael Henry): Dave Minott read the Ranger's report which related that there were 4 reports of graffiti for this past month. A reminder that photos and GPS coordinates furnished by Westerners hikers are of vital importance when reporting instances of graffiti, transient camping, and excessive trash. Resources are limited for researching and remediating these situations, and, with the available technology almost everyone has these days, pictures and GPS coordinates save time and effort.

Cliff Walker (Cultural Resources etiquette, Gary Morgan): reminded all that when using our tracking apps, to please make sure that it is not making a public recording; some apps make it difficult and you have several buttons to click to allow that designation. Also, please ensure that when taking photos ruin sites to turn off the GPS on the photos.

Historian (Sandi Heysinger) Dave Minott read the report in which she wishes to thank everyone who has contributed photos for the year book. She reports that we are currently in good shape with a wide variety of photos from all groups! Her message is, please keep them coming!! Sandi also requests that if you are a Westerners Officer, either elected or appointed, and you have not sent her a headshot photo, please do so. See cautions that if you don't send your headshot photo soon, you may not like the avatar she picks for you instead of your photo!

Chuckwagon Boss (Patty Persons, Chuckwagon Boss): Absent, no report.

Roundup Boss (Red Rock News articles, Dick Williams): Dave Minott read the report which states that Dick greatly appreciates the six folks who have recently sent articles in response to his plea, following a drought in articles being submitted. Dick notes that two of the Hike Bosses have already facilitated members of their hike groups preparing articles. Dick wants to reiterate that the intent of his recent plea for more articles was not a request to the Hike Bosses to write articles personally, but for Hike Bosses to ask the hikers at our meetups to write an article. Dick knows the Hike Bosses are very busy, and greatly appreciates their making deliberate efforts to recruit articles.

Finally, Dick says that we still need more articles, so keep them coming. Dick notes that the articles are really not that hard to write, and he can help massage the articles that have some off-trail content. Additionally, if you do not feel comfortable actually writing prose, Dick asks you to just send him some content bullet points, and he will help write the article from those - please keep the articles coming. The number of articles is getting rather low and submissions would be greatly appreciated. Should you have any questions or want to submit an article, please email the Roundup Boss, whose contact is on our Officers page at: <https://www.sedonawesterners.com/officers.php>

Guest Speaker

Our Wagon Boss, Donna Forsythe introduced our Guest Speaker, Janie Agyagos, Wildlife Biologist for the U.S. Forest Service. She is currently at the Red Rock Ranger District, and is the sole wildlife biologist for the 550,000 acre district. The Topic of her presentation was "Fauna of the Verde Valley – Rare, Endangered and Interesting Species". This was a very informative presentation, which included:

- Sedona has the second highest concentration of nesting peregrine falcons in the state (second to the Grand Canyon)
- A number of animals are adversely affected by the dwindling native fish species in our area
- There are 50 species of non-native fish in Oak Creek, alone
- Some extinct and extirpated species are: Southwestern river otter, thick-billed parrot, jaguar, grizzly bear, California floater and the Mexican gray wolf
- If you want to report any unusual animal sightings, or if you are interested in volunteering contact Janie Agyagos at: (928) 203-7507 or (928) 300-0523, Janie.agyagos@usda.gov

Meeting was adjourned at: 9:01

Respectfully submitted,

Sophia Sweeny, Wrangler