

Sedona Westerners Board Meeting - May 30, 2023

Present: Ray LaPorte, Dave Vanderwater, Donna Forsythe, Debby Losse, Mark Bealafeld, Sandi Heysinger, Adrienne Pichette, Mary McCaffrey, Terri Petrescu, Jan Taylor, Mark Hurtt, Kelley Malek, Lisa Celeste, Bob Apter, Linda Warren

Absent: Jim Kemper, Trisha Travis

The meeting was called to order by Trail Boss Ray LaPorte at 9 am.

Action items

Approve Executive Board Meeting Minutes of Feb 20, 2023 and March 3, 2023

Motion to approve was made by Donna Forsythe and seconded by Mark Bealafeld. Motion was approved unanimously.

Appointed Officers: Approve the List of Appointer Officer nominees for 2023-24.

The slate of appointed officers was submitted to the Board for its approval:

Ranger/Forest Service Liaison: Amanda Maxwell

Roundup Boss: Sara Stiffler

Historian: Margaret Davis

Sunbeam: Peg Cook

Cliff Walker: Gary Morgan

Point Rider: Clint Gelotte

Assistant Point Rider: Jim Sweeny

Assistant Prospector: Laurie Petersen

Assistant Chuck Wagon Boss: Lynn Moffatt

Assistant Trail Bosses

Assistant Ambler Boss: Jon Petrescu

Assistant Rustler Boss: Deb Hicks

Assistant Drover Boss: Jackie Pinho

Assistant Dogie Boss: Jim Thomas

Assistant Mustang Boss: TBD

Assistant Cactus Dodger: Randy Dent

Assistant Tracker Boss: Tom Petersen

1st Motion: Following a request by Adrienne Pichette that an Assistant Chuck Wagon Boss be designated and that it be Lynn Moffatt, a motion was made by Bob Apter and seconded By Terri Petrescu. The motion was unanimously approved.

2nd Motion: Mary McCaffrey made a motion to approve the list of appointed officers, and the motion was seconded by Adrienne Pichette. The motion was unanimously approved.

Honorary Members: Approve three newly qualified Honorary Member candidates.

Three members have qualified to be named as Honorary Members:

Peg Cook, Dave Vanderwater, and Tom Yager. Peg Cook has been a member 12 years and served as an officer for 4 years; Dave Vanderwater has been a member for 10 years and served as an officer for 7 years; finally, Tom Yager has been a member for ten years and served as an officer for 5 years.

A motion was made by Jan Taylor and seconded by Sandi Heysinger to approve the list of proposed Honorary Members. The motion was unanimously approved.

Transfer of Bank Signature Authority: Change access/signature to the bank account to add the 2023-24 Trail Boss.

A motion was made to remove the previously listed Trail Boss (President), Dave Minott, as signatory and Key Executive President of the Sedona Westerners bank account and add the current Trail Boss (President), Raphael LaPorte, as the Key Executive President of the bank account, per the requirements of Wells Fargo Bank. A motion was made by Kelly Malek and seconded by Mark Bealafeld. The motion was approved unanimously.

Designate Mark Bealafeld to submit the Sedona Westerners Statutory Agent form to the Arizona Commission

Mark Bealafeld is the officer designated to submit the Statutory Agent form to the Arizona Commission.

Annual Financial Records Audit

Dan Celeste has been designated to conduct the annual audit of the Club's financial records.

Budget Projection: Review budget and discuss dues amount for the 2023-34 season.

Mark Bealafeld, Treasurer, presented for review the 2023-24 budget for the Sedona Westerners. Dave Vanderwater made a motion to approve the proposed budget. It was seconded by Donna Forsythe. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Treasurer recommended that the dues remain at the current level (\$30). Sandi Heysinger moved that the dues remain at the current level for 2023-24. Bob Apter seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Discussion: Adrienne Pichette proposed that the Board consider the benefits of offering a lifetime membership at a rate to be determined to appeal to current members who may no longer be hiking but might enjoy attending meetings and social events. Board members suggested that the question be considered in the future.

New Business

Potential Article 6 Bylaw Change: Discuss changing regularly scheduled General Membership Meeting dates from “second Thursday” to “second Wednesday”.

Ray LaPorte provided a justification for the proposed change:

- Currently Thursday is the day scheduled for Ambler, Mustang, and Scout hikes
- Hiking on those days adversely impacts monthly meeting attendance
- Amblers and Mustangs do not schedule hikes on Cookout days

Discussion: The issue of church availability for meetings on Wednesday night was raised. Board members also brought out the fact that the decline in meeting attendance may be a result of the convenience of Zoom meetings during COVID. It was observed that people are beginning to go out in the evenings, so perhaps meeting attendance would increase next year.

The consensus of the Board members present was that the issue needs further consideration before action is taken. No motion was made to allow for further consideration and consultation with the greater membership.

Sign-in Sheet Review: Discuss potential additions and/or deletions for upcoming season. The Trail Boss asked what changes needed to be made on the sign-in sheet to strive for efficiency. Following a discussion of the advisability of moving any health information into the Hiking Rules and eliminating the COVID guidelines section, Ray was asked to reword according to the Board’s recommendations and to present the revised document to Board Members in an email for approval.

Joint Hike with AZ Trailblazers: An SRRTF initiative. Discuss Westerner-led joint hike in October 2023.

Sandi Heysinger presented the concept of a joint hike with the AZ Trailblazers hosted by the Sedona Red Rock Trail Fund to be held in October. A discussion ensued. Sandi will report back to the Board Members with more information as requested.

Metal Trail Sign Removal

Prior to October 2021, the USFS made a decision to remove the metal trail signs placed by the Sedona Westerners because the signs conflict with current FS trail standards. Sandi Heysinger noted that the RRTF had explained to the USFS that the SW had lent the signs to the USF and would like them back. Board Members explored how the signs might be used as a fund raiser by SW members for the Sedona Redrock Trail Fund. It was agreed that Ray would draft an email to the USFS requesting the return of the signs.

Announcements: Upcoming events.

Hike Boss Meeting and Orientation. Date TBD
Ice Cream Social. September 14, 2023

Hike Leader Orientation. New Initiative
Hike Database Refresh continues.

Other Business

A new Volunteer Service Agreement form signed by the new Trail Boss will be made available to members who wish to serve as volunteers.

After June 1, passwords will be sent to Board Members to login to the Sedona Westerners website.

Trail Boss Ray LaPorte adjourned the meeting at 10: 35.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Losse
Wrangler