

CALL TO ORDER: 1742, by Joe Migliore

QUORUM (5 Board Members): Yes

BOARD MEMBERS/DIRECTORS PRESENT: Joe Migliore President, Kurt Leuschner VP, Suzanne Tracy Secretary, Royce Jones Treasurer, Jim Forneris Retail, Dennis Schirmer Science, Bob Pellenbarg

MSJ VOLUNTEER REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Vince Llacer, Carl Maples

BOOKKEEPER PRESENT: Phyllis Keys Bookkeeper

CA DPR REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Allison Barnes Park Interpreter

ABSENT: Iona Scapple, Mark Hudgens Sector Superintendent, Todd Friedman Supervisor

GUEST: Maureen McCarty

APPROVE MINUTES PRIOR MEETING August 8, 2016 and September 17, 2016

MOTION BY: Bob Pellenbarg, **SECONDED BY:** Kurt Leuschner, **ALL IN FAVOR & CARRIED:** Yes

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Treasurer's Report, Royce Jones and Phyllis Keys

Statement of Assets, Liabilities, and Net Assets for September, 2016:

Report attached to minutes and includes following:

Total Assets Checking at US Bank: September 2016 \$30,286.29

Total Current Assets (Includes CDs, Education Grant, Cash at All Locations, Rescue Funds):

September 2016 \$149,858.15

Total Liabilities & Equity: September 2016 \$149,858.15

Net Income: September 2016 -\$5,993.28

Net Income January-September, 2016: -\$3,584.97

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

No sales to report (due to PSAT annual closure) with a few credit card charges.

Cost of goods expenditures up from one year ago due to purchase of interpretive supplies.

State Park Report: Allison Barnes Park Interpreter

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Generally slow due to PSAT annual closure.

Conducted a school program at Calimesa elementary.

Invited to return next year for the Girl Scout program (reported on at the September meeting).

Alison will be away from October 12 to 22, 2016, attending an interpretive conference in Monterey, but will be available by email.

Second newsletter has been published and is very well received; plan to publish quarterly.

Supplies purchased for Idyllwild (approved at the August meeting) are in use.

Natural Science, Dennis Schirmer, Nothing to report

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

MEMBERSHIP: Joe Migliore

GENERAL DISCUSSION: MSJ VOLUNTEER STATUS MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

Membership campaign has been combined with the 2016 Holiday Banquet in an effort to promote renewal of lapsed memberships, new memberships. Attendance is at no cost to guests and includes all current and lifetime members.

A preliminary notification was presented; this will be revised prior to sending invitations. Working with "Constant Contact" on banquet brochure.

Wine will be available in the banquet room; other alcoholic beverages are available at the third floor bar in the mountain station.

Steve Fuchs is scheduled as the guest speaker; topic is "10 Top Scariest Creatures"; Steve's bio is included in the invitation.

Probable cost is \$35.00 to \$40.00 per person; PSAT has a proposal of \$30.00 per person; will consider \$40.00 per person.

Banquet room has seating capacity of 100. Consider limiting no cost to 60 guests at \$40.00 each for a total of \$2400.00.

Mark Hudgens Sector Superintendent and Allison Barnes Park Interpreter will be introduced at the banquet.

Will consider assigning a PLU at the VC for members to pay dues.

MEMBERSHIP Cont.: Joe Migliore

MOTION: Accept 60 reservations for Holiday Banquet dinner

MOTION BY: Bob Pellenbarg, SECONDED BY: Jim Forneris, ALL IN FAVOR & CARRIED: Yes
WEBSITE: JOE MIGLIORE, NOTHING TO REPORT

Facebook updates: Royce Jones, Nothing to report

EDUCATION: See Park Interpreter report

RETAIL: Jim Forneris

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Restrict package pickup to Alison Barnes and Jim Forneris; packages have been picked up and taken to Idyllwild without knowledge of receipt by Jim. Issues such as denial of payment for goods ordered have occurred.

Sales varied due to PSAT closure.

Consider reviewing storage conditions at Idyllwild for damage to goods from weather.

Joe Migliore will contact Idyllwild to discuss alternate storage and request Idyllwild to check integrity of goods.

New maps are here; will continue to sell old maps for \$2.00.

Very cold in VC with installation of sliding doors; Jim will send a picture of the jackets in VC closet #2 to Joe.

OLD BUSINESS:

STATUS INCOMPLETE: **Review** and revise bylaws. Placed on permanent hold.

STATUS TABLED PENDING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: **Woodworking** Router. Remove from agenda.

NEW BUSINESS:

Partnership Skill Building: New ideas, Remains open for discussion, Nothing new to report

Natural Science Collaborative: Funding request for mountain HIKE program

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Additional funding of \$3000.00 requested for interpretative programs; a bill for \$1200.00 received for programs already completed.

Natural Science Collaborative has been notified that in the future funding should be requested prior to spending funds

MOTION: Approve \$4500.00 funding transport of interpretative programs; this will reimburse funds already spent (\$1200.00) and future programs (\$3000.00).

MOTION BY: Kurt Leuschner, SECONDED BY: Bob Pellenbarg, ALL IN FAVOR & CARRIED: Yes

Stone Creek Campground: Wood Sales, Safe, Credit Card Reader

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Campground is closed for winter season. Keep on the agenda for discussion in Spring, 2017.

Consider moving safe in LVRS closet to Stone Creek by next summer.

Holiday Banquet: Catering Cost and possible limit on attendance. See minutes on membership.

Mail Delivery Service: Changed to USPS, Updates to Website and Facebook page, Change of address procedures for card, stationery, and brochure stick labels and anything else

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Royce Jones will make address changes at US Bank.

Stickers will be purchased to cover old address where needed.

Phyllis Keys has been sending new address to vendors; address is highlighted in bright orange.

New MSJNHA board member: Maureen McCarty

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Maureen introduced to group, is a former board member.

Phyllis keys, bookkeeper, is also recommended as a board member; bylaws checked and no conflict has been found for the paid bookkeeper to also be a board member.

MOTION: Formalize Maureen McCarty and Phyllis Keys as MSJNHA board members.

MOTION BY: Jim Forneris, SECONDED BY: Kurt Leuschner, ALL IN FAVOR & CARRIED: Yes

Photo Contest

GENERAL DISCUSSION: Keep on agenda for discussion in the future.

Long Gun Safe and carrying case

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Guns cannot remain in unmanned parked patrol car; storage at PSAT Valley Station is needed.

Suggest approaching PSAT and requesting storage space.

Carl Maple will take this information to the LVRS rangers.

Recycle funds from Idyllwild pickup arrangements

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Recycling funds are sent to MSJNHA; handling of recycling should be through volunteers and not paid employees of State of California. Suggest investigating a system to continue recycle or discontinue.

A volunteer program is in the process for Idyllwild; consider having this person handle the recycle program; as an alternative, take recyclables to the Kiwanis.

Suzanne Tracy will contact Francine and discuss the process.

Storage of MSJNHA wilderness trail maps (20 cartons)

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Dennis Schirmer will take these to Idyllwild.

NHA Picnic: Carl Maple, Bill Solylo, and Jed Reghanti demonstrated rescue techniques. This was a real highlight of the picnic and it is hoped will be repeated in future picnics. Many picnickers had a fun ride in the rescue equipment.

Maureen McCary donated a gas grill to the picnic. This will be kept in Idyllwild for future picnics.

Many Thanks Carl, Bill, Jed, and Maureen.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: November 14, 2016 @ 5:30pm

REFRESHMENTS: Bob Pellenbarg

ADJOURNMENT: 1917, By Joe Migliore

EMAIL NATURAL SCIENCE COLLABORATIVE FUNDING REQUEST:

From: "Albrecht, Tracy" <talbrech@blm.gov>

Subject: correspondence with NHA for Mtn HIKE funding

Date: August 15, 2016 at 3:02:20 PM PDT

To: Kurt Leuschner <kleuschner@collegeofthedesert.edu>

Cc: Joe Migliore <jayseem@dc.rr.com>, Joanna Stark <joannastark@aol.com>

Hi Kurt

This is a request to place an item on the agenda for the next NHA meeting:

Mtn HIKE program funding request by Natural Science Collaborative (NSC).

Would you please communicate this to the person who organizes the meeting agenda? Ali said a formal request needs to come from NSC. As I understand the next meeting is being held before the NHA picnic on Sept. 17 @ 11:00 in Idyllwild. Many thanks,

Tracy Albrecht, Interpretive Specialist

Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument

Bureau of Land Management

1201 Bird Center Drive

Palm Springs, CA 92262

ph 760/833-7127

WOOD SALES AT STONE CREEK CAMPGROUND:

Hi Bill and Royce,

Thanks for the heads up Bill. If you are suggesting a charge machine, we do have a land line at Stone Creek and if need be I suppose we could have a dedicated line put in for a credit card Machine. Another option would a cell phone credit card reader. it certainly would make sense given the volume of sales not to mention the risk and hassle of handling lots of cash. The Fishers will be leaving on Sept. 5 so we don't need to get this done until next April or May when the Stone creek reopens. We should also consider a safe for the office/VC at Stone Creek. Royce, maybe would could add the credit card terminal to our existing accounts. Would you check it out and then we can pass it by the board for approval. Joe

From: Royce Jones <cooterj2432@gmail.com>

Subject: Re: Wood sells in Stone Creek CS

Date: August 25, 2016 at 2:02:01 PM PDT

To: "Solylo, William@Parks" <William.Solylo@parks.ca.gov>

Cc: "jayseem@dc.rr.com" <jayseem@dc.rr.com>, "Hudgens, Mark@Parks" <Mark.Hudgens@parks.ca.gov>

Thanks, Bill for sharing this information and insight on how the business is conducted in Idyllwild.

Is Jim asking for a greater bank amount for giving change to customer's?

Joe and I have worked with Phyllis, NHA book keeper, to come up with a process that will get the fire wood supplier paid in a quicker fashion. Royce

Royce

On Thu, Aug 25, 2016 at 1:56 PM, Solylo, William@Parks <William.Solylo@parks.ca.gov> wrote:

Hello Joe & Royce, I just wanted to give you a heads up on NHA sells at the Stone Creek Campground. In past 5 + years it has been ran by camp hosts Jim & Cec Fisher who live there during the summer months and then head home in their RV back to Arizona. I know Jim has always taken pride in wood sells, that man is a wood selling machine. They were just telling me that they have sold over 1100 bundles of wood this summer which may compete with local business's. What makes these folks remarkable is they maintain a minimum change fund of \$500 dollars of their own money to keep the enterprise alive. Cec says the NHA \$35 dollar change fund would last about 5 minutes because everyone that is coming up to camp just back from the bank and has only large bills. I've never been comfortable with them being so isolated and to keep that amount of cash but they do it. They do not have a credit card machine so it's a cash only transaction. I enjoy watching Jim tell customers that want 2 bundles of wood, "I'll tell you, if you buy 3 bundles and you don't use the 3rd I'll give you your money back" (they rarely if ever bring back the 3rd). I just wanted you know what I'm seeing in Stone Creek and in the future you may need to update the way we are doing business there. These are great folks that really care about the park.

William Solylo

State Park Ranger/Officer

Long Valley Ranger Station

Mount San Jacinto

P.O.Box 308

Idyllwild, CA 92549

Phone/Fax 760-327-0222

Email william.solylo@parks.ca.gov

EMAIL HOLIDAY BANQUET:

Hello Board,

In preparing the invitation for the holiday banquet I noticed that in the past we have held it on a Saturday. This time we chose Dec. 8 which is Thursday. I don't recall if we chose a Thursday deliberately. I could probably change the reservation to Saturday Dec 10 but I won't be able to check on that until Monday. However if you all get back to me soon I'll check tomorrow if Saturday is chosen. I tend to favor Saturday. Regarding the cost. We have charged all guests including board and liaison \$25 per person. Our cost the last time in 2013 averaged \$52 each all inclusive less \$25 from each guest. The statement is attached below. It would be about the same this time John Fritch tells me but I expect to get it soon, confirming our conversation.

I propose that we offer the banquet free to our guests. Our cost, as you can see, would be about twice our net cost as on previous occasions. I think we will have greater attendance from all sectors; board, park staff and membership. Think of it as promotional for NHA membership with renewals and new.

I would also like to have a short presentation that would stimulate attendance. Any ideas?

We may have to pay an honorarium. Are you up for that if necessary? If so, what do suggest as a maximum for someone that is well known for public speaking? I am thinking 200 or 300 hundred but it depends somewhat on proximity and traveling, etc. Free is better if it's good!

Look forward to hearing from you soon!

Joe

yes it was always on a weeknight up until a year or two ago.

that is because the tram restaurant did not want to give up a busy weekend night.

but maybe things have changed with the restaurant and they don't mind doing a Saturday for us. you might check with them first.

Kurt

I received exactly one half of a reply about the email below! So I acted alone and changed the banquet date to Saturday Dec. 10. However I asked another question about charges. Please give me some feedback as that is something I cannot do unilaterally. Free or not? And what about a speaker? Please read below. Thanks, Joe

Hi Joe,

I was busy this weekend and didn't get to my e-mails, until now.

As I understand it, you've already made a change to the day of the dinner to Saturday evening. The volunteer patrollers, park aids, and rangers won't have time to go home and shower to dress up for the event. So we may be grubby depending on the days events, or not make it all. Thursday, would've been better.

\$300 for a speaker is what I'd like to set the ceiling on. I hope we get a good speaker for this fee.

I think a \$25.00 a head is an acceptable fee for members to attend the banquet. We don't want to spend too, much of the NHA education funds on a dinner, even though we have a good amount of reserves.

Sincerely, Royce

Joe, I think it is a good to consider paying for each guest. Maybe we will generate interest in becoming a volunteer and/or an NHA member (hopefully both). I think all the volunteers want that sense of unity that we saw last Saturday at the training.

I don't have a suggestion for a speaker but it seems like a good idea, even if we have to pay. Suzanne

Thanks Suzanne, so far 3 to one in favor of free. I now have a great speaker lined up too at no cost to us except free dinner for two! Joe

EMAIL POSTAL SERVICE:

Board Members,

I just checked the box tonight on my way home, and this letter was in it. I don't know who's responsibility this is, but I am willing to go to the Palm Springs Post Office tomorrow as I go there for my regular job and try to find out what has happened. If we need to get another box somewhere I suggest we get one at the Post Office, I have had issues before with these private mailbox place. We have paid for a full year just a side note. I don't have the time right now to get a new mail box if that is the case. Sorry, I work full time and do the NHA on my off time. Attached is the letter, if you need to talk to me my home phone is 760-568-5517 where I can be reached tonight otherwise you can call my cell tomorrow 760-567-3253. Thanks Phyllis **Postal Service Letter Attached**

Sounds like we should get a PO Box at the PS Post Office ASAP

I would vote for that Kurt

I concur, Royce

Yes, I also agree. Suzanne

Board Members,

I went to the Post Office and found out that the lady that took over the mailbox place is refusing to sign an agreement with the post office. They do have mailboxes and I have picked up an application, I will fill it out and get a box at the post office, 1 year is 86.00 with one free month thrown in, the private mailbox we had was 149.00 a year. I will get this box rental tomorrow. I have other checks that need to be sign as I met with Jim Forneris today. I will drop them by Joe's on Friday on my way home from work. Kurt you or Royce will need to get together with Joe to sign any checks over 500.00. Thanks Phyllis

Friday September 9, 2016

Dear P.O. Box Holders,

Around 11am this morning we were informed by our postal carrier that this will be her last delivery here.

For reasons that are still unclear to us, the United States Post Office has informed us that after 30 years of excellent service, they will no longer be delivering mail to 255 N. El Cielo Road, Suite 140 or any private mailbox here beginning Saturday September 10, 2016.

This is the first and only communication from the Post Office we have ever received about this sudden decision and really do not know where to go from here.

As you can imagine this comes as a complete and unwarranted shock with a great degree of devastation to us as individuals and as a business owner. Many of you know that we too have been box holders here for years as well.

Since taking over this business "on the fly", after the previous owner left without telling anyone, we have been working "overtime" to provide excellent service to our box holders and are proud of all the hard work we have done turning the mess we encountered back into successful and friendly business.

We are attempting to address this issue with the head post master, but can make no presumptions as to what the final outcome will be.

As a taxpayer and citizen of this Palm Springs, I find this to be an appalling violation of my personal right to receive my mail. I urge you to **PLEASE** contact the main Palm Springs Post Office at 333 Amado Road (760) 322-4111. Ask for Judy (manager) directly. She is the manager who when asked, by our mail carrier "what will happen to the customer's mail?", simply stated, "We will just return it to the sender". Maybe if we all make enough noise, they'll hear us!

You can be sure that we will do our best to resolve this situation, but ultimately the decision lies with the United States Post Office.

Amiee Wyant

A Place of Healing LLC.

**MOUNT SAN JACINTO NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MEETING
DATE: October 10, 2016**

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Transcribed from original notes on October 14, 2016
Original notes attached
Suzanne Tracy