

Mt. San Jacinto Natural History Association

Board of Directors Meeting

November 5, 2013 Minutes

Meeting at MSA Consulting Offices

The meeting was called to order by President Iona Scapple at 5:45pm. Quorum confirmed.

Roll Call: Directors present:

Iona Scapple, Kurt Leuschner, Bob Pellenbarg, Marsha Hansen, Joe Migliore, Elize Van Zandt, Maureen McCarty, Dennis Schirmer, Peter A 'Hearn, Duane Bambusch. Phyllis Keys, Bookkeeper.

State Park Representatives: Paul Reisman, SP Sector Superintendent, Todd Friedman, Robert Peek, SP Rangers

- I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES from October 8, 2013. KL/ MM
- II. MSA Consulting Presentation of ADA Funicular/People Mover. Bruce Kassler & Marvin Roos, Engineers
 1. A proposed 700' pathway from the middle deck of Mountain Station down to Long Valley at bottom of concrete path was presented with three different options. The track would be raised above the pathway at a height of 12-15' and 4-5' at the terminus. Discussion followed with the pros and cons of the funicular.
 2. Kurt expressed that it would totally obstruct the view of Long Valley, the mountain vistas, and would disturb viewing avian species. Others on the board expressed problems with noise factors and the unsightly apparatus of a track and car traveling up and over the concrete pathway.
 3. Elize stated the need of ADA visitors to have access to the Long Valley Nature Trail. Marsha suggested that the funicular track be moved to the east side of Mountain Station out of sight.
- III. Standing Report
 - A. Treasurer's Report - Bookkeeper Phyllis Keys
 1. Phyllis reported that we have \$107,065 in the bank at the end of September.
 2. The tax penalty for our 2012 taxes was paid by the tax preparer.
 3. A Certificate of Deposit requires two signatures of Board Members: Suggested was: President Iona, V. President Kurt & or the Treasurer, Bob. Motion made & passed. **MC/JM**
 4. Discussion on whether a CD would be worthwhile. Subject tabled until next mtg.
 5. SP staff that uses Bank Card needs to turn in receipts to Phyllis.
 6. See accompanied financial statement report for more detailed information.
- IV. State Park Report, Paul Reisman SP Sector Superintendent
 - A. SP was denied the matching funds for the \$75,000 of NHA money. Paul will keep searching for other matching funds.
 - B. The Funicular is not a "done deal". There will be public hearings on all the issues: noise, view obstruction, crowds, rail obstruction, bird viewing & hearing bird songs, impact on wildlife, etc.
 - C. Value added classes (fee charge) are permissible as per the State Park.

- D. There is a need for about 10 radio batteries at a cost of \$32.93 + S/H. Todd will order. **Board Approved.**
 - E. Maureen will look into getting the NHA on a list for SP employees to donate to from their pay.
 - F. CA Trails & Greenway- Do we want to sponsor booth? This would not be to our advantage.
 - G. Ranger Station has a need for purified water as the water tank needs repair and a cover. Elize moved we pay \$30 mo. for Sparklets Water until the tank is repaired. **Motion Approved. EV/MC**
 - H. Rangers need a \$100 Shop Vac. **Motion Approved. KL/PA.**
 - I. NHA will do a budget for the coming year & Paul agreed to give NHA a list of projects to fund.
 - J. SP's seasonal budget was cut by \$8,000. This could be a future funding need.
- V. COMMITTEE REPORTS
- A. Retail John Beringer
 - 1) When Federal Parks closed our SP picked up a lot more visitors and sales increased in the VC.
 - 2) New items selling well include backpacks.
 - B. Membership Maureen McCarty
 - 1) Two Life memberships were received from Wisconsin.
 - 2) Volunteer Sharon Mattern sells 2-3 memberships per mo. VIP's need to mention joining NHA.
 - C. Education Peter A'Hearn
 - 1) There were 1800 teachers in PS in October. However, the PSAT field trip was cancelled.
- VI. OLD BUSINESS
- A. Peaks Joe Migliore
 - 1) Constant Contacts informed us that there is free web mail – Vertical Response- Joe used this for the Photo Contest.
 - 2) There were more than 30 entries in Photo contest. Joe is resigning as coordinator. Duane volunteered to take over this task. Kurt suggested doing contest every 3-5 years.
 - B. Discussion on email list sharing – we need to poll our NHA members to see if they want to share their emails w/other like-minded organizations. Joe suggested sharing with hike clubs that use our SP and they could share with our membership.
 - C. Planned Holiday Party introductions by Kurt: Paul, Iona, & speaker, etc.
- VII. NEW BUSINESS
- A. Election Committee
 - 1) Chairmen Marsha and 2 board members called for nominations for new members for the Board. Those up for re-election are Kurt Leuschner, Maureen McCarty, Dennis Schirmer and Elize Van Zandt. Jan Welch will also make a run for the Board.
 - 2) The slate of nominees will be emailed to all NHA members along with a brief bio on those running. The election will be held at the Holiday Dinner Party.
 - 3) Marsha expressed a desire to resign as secretary when a new replaced can be found.
 - B. The question came up is the MSJ State Park receiving any \$\$ from the PSAT visitors? The NHA would like those \$\$ to help support our SP.
 - C. Budget Board Meeting called for Tuesday, December 17, 5pm at Iona Scapples home.
- VIII. The next Board Meeting will be brief at the NHA Holiday Dinner on Sat. Dec.7.
- IX. Meeting was adjourned at 8: 30pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Marsha Hansen, Secretary

- B. Science Collaborator - Dennis Schirmer
No report this month.

X. STATE PARK REPORT Bart Grant, Supv. Ranger

Bart made the following funding request:

1. 1) Ina, Interpreter position-\$6,000. Approved. KL/MM
2. 2) \$4,500 for display cases for Museum at Mtn. Station. Approved KL/MM

XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. RETAIL - John Beringer Sr. SP Aide/Visitor Center (VC) Manager

- 1) Sales: John reported 2012 VC sales were \$8000 over budget and \$12,000 in sales over 2010.
- 2) The Visitors Center now has 23 new volunteers.
- 3) Price list PLU's are all grouped together by number. PLU's & prices are tagged on every item.
- 4) John does not need to get Board approval on new items, but the Board would like a report of new items and what is selling well. There is a new PCT day hike book and fanny packs are a new item.

B. Membership - Maureen McCarty

1. Maureen now has most of the membership's e-mails.
2. Maureen would like to look at changing our membership to a calendar year: January to December. Members who join mid- year should be given a break, by extending their membership to the next year.

C. Education - Peter A 'Hearn

1. Calif. Teachers Science Conference is in Palm Springs, Oct. 25-27 this year. A small group of about 20 will tour the engine room of the PSAT.
2. The Winter Park Authority meets Tuesday morning at 9:30am 7-8 months out of the year. Bart will forward a meeting calendar so those Board Members interested can attend.
3. Local school groups travel up the Tram to visit the SP once a year as part of their curriculum.
4. There is a NEED for activity packets for each grade level that visits the SP. Peter has offered to assist Rob Howard to plan for these activities. The activities need to match the Standards set for each grade level. Peter and Bart will discuss these activities.

XII. Old Business

A. PEAKS - Joe Migliore

1. Contributors are wanted for the next edition of Peaks which is published in January, May and September.
2. Joe is looking at 'Constant Contact' using their software and the program includes the mailings. It is more expedient than Microsoft Publisher. Joe will report more in the next meeting

B. Website - Maureen McCarty

1. Maureen reports we get about 8-10 hits a week.
2. Pay Pal is working well and is not needed on future agendas for discussion.
3. Maureen will invite a marketing person to discuss how to improve our Website for more visitors.

VI. New Business

1. Joe will update Board of Directors information.
2. The Photo Contest will begin in spring and Joe will work on this activity.
3. Whistles that have been discussed may possibly be funded by SP.
4. The Wildflower Festival is March 20 at the Monument VC. Elize stated that NHA needs a visible display for these types of programs. She will work on this and procure some items to display on the SP table. The Board approved Elize and Ina (SP) to get a new Display Board. Rob Howard will work at the Festival table for SP.

XIII. Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 5, 2013 at 5:30 pm at Joe Migliore home. Refreshments for next mtg. by Bob Pellenbarg

XIV. Meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Marsha Hansen, Secretary

