

**MOUNT SAN JACINTO NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
DATE: January 9, 2017**

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CALL TO ORDER: 1739, by Joe Migliore

QUORUM (5 Board Members): Yes

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

MSJ VOLUNTEER REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Carl Maple

CA DPR REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Mark Hudgens Sector Superintendent, Allison Barnes Park Interpreter

ABSENT: Jim Forneris Retail, Maureen McCarty, Vince Llacer, Todd Friedman Supervisor

APPROVE MINUTES PRIOR MEETING November 14, 2016 Not done, move to February, 2017, meeting.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Treasurer's Report, Royce Jones and Phyllis Keys

Statement of Assets, Liabilities, and Net Assets for November and December, 2016:

Report attached to minutes and includes following:

Total Assets Checking at US Bank: November 2016 \$41,862.79, December 2016 \$36,487.37

Total Checking/Savings at US Bank: November 2016 \$158,918.83, December 2016 \$153,543.41

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

November 2016 \$158,383.53, December 2016 \$153,548.01

Total Liabilities & Equity: November 2016 \$158,383.53, December 2016 \$153,548.01

Net Income: November 2016 \$7,649.16, December 2016 -\$2,957.87

Net Income January-December 2016 \$3,737.54

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Report on 2016

Income from Long Valley Ranger Station and Idyllwild increased by \$7990.00. Income from Visitor Center increased by \$2990.00. Overall expenses are under budget with the exception of the Holiday Banquet. Donations \$3990.00. Memberships \$835.40. Lifetime memberships \$900.00. Interpretive Products \$8600.00. Education Grant \$14,000.00. Rescue Funds \$1200.00.

Budget for 2017 prepared based on historical data for 2016 by Phyllis Keys. Cash over and short not listed as a budget item. NHA will be in the positive based on the prepared budget.

MOTION: Approve MSJNHA budget for 2017

BY: Kurt Leuschner **SECONDED BY:** Bob Pellenbarg All in Favor and Carried: Yes

State Park Report, Mark Hudgens Sector Superintendent, Park Interpreter Report, Allison Barnes

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Mark Hudgens reports volunteer hours for 2016 at 10,505 for all aspects of volunteer service; hours for 2015 at 7106. Alison Barnes reports better coverage at the Visitor Center.

TRAFx count for 2016 at 482,736; this number is halved as it counts the visitor twice resulting in an actual count of 241,368 visitors into the actual park. Visitor numbers were presented to the Winter Park Authority; the accuracy of the numbers was questioned. Purchase of additional TRAFx counters at other locations in the park discussed; possible sites discussed are Round Valley, Idyllwild Deer Springs, Willow Trail, and the stream at the Sid Davis trail. A suggestion was made to have a volunteer do a visitor count to verify the accuracy of the TRAFx counter. Three TRAFx counters requested at a cost of \$2195.00

MOTION: Approve \$2500.00 for the purchase of three TRAFx units

BY: Royce Jones, **SECONDED BY:** Bob Pellenbarg, All in Favor and Carried Yes

Mark Hudgens reports the Hidden Divide Blue Curl has been delisted; it is no longer considered a threatened species. Hidden Divide will be opened by summer with a requirement that visitors stay on trails.

Mark Hudgens reports Alison Barnes is taking on the volunteer coordinator position for volunteer hours. A program, through Logistics, is recommended for this; program can handle up to 100 volunteers. Currently there are 48 volunteers. Cost of program is \$26.00 for 50 volunteers and \$2.00 additional for 100 volunteers or \$30.00 per month. Allison Barnes would manage the program.

MOTION: Approve \$30.00 per month for the purchase of the Logistics program

BY: Kurt Leuschner, **SECONDED BY:** Bob Pellenbarg, All in Favor and Carried Yes

Mark Hudgens reports he was approached at the Holiday Banquet by a guest asking about the opening of the Willow Creek trail to Idyllwild. Estimated cost is \$300,000.00 for rehabilitation to California State Park trail standards; a survey is scheduled for March and April, 2017. There was discussion for funding through other groups with exploration of options for funding. Mark will report to the NHA after the survey.

Alison Barnes reports volunteer training programs are scheduled for 2017.

Introduction to Interpretation: February 25 and March 11

Nature Walk Interpretation: April 1 and 29

April is National Volunteer Appreciation month. A potluck for volunteers was discussed and included the suggestion of a Mystery Hike conducted by Carl Maple with a potluck lunch.

Allison is attending a volunteer training program through California State Parks.

Allison Barnes and Jim Forneris report the VC cash register is 'acting up' and may require replacement. Replacements have been looked at but they are not ready to replace at this time. Alison and Jim will contact Joe Migliore if replacement is needed.

James Cornett is speaking at Ocotillo Wells on Training and Natural Resources. His speaking fee is \$500. Allison will contact Mr Cornett and discuss a speaking engagement for MSJ. It was recommended that Kurt Leuschner is utilized for natural resource contacts.

Allison Barnes has prepared another newsletter. Publishing will be coordinated with the NHA with an edited version for the public. A possible link to Facebook was also discussed.

Many teachers have scheduled school groups for the spring of 2017.

Natural Science, Dennis Schirmer: Nothing to report

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

MEMBERSHIP: Joe Migliore

MSJ Membership Campaign: Positive feedback for NHA following the Holiday Banquet received.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

In reviewing memberships, Gene Rojek renewed for 2017. Gene and wife Grethe Abele have been faithful volunteers for 27 years. An honorary lifetime membership was conferred on Gene and Grethe. Thanks to both Gene and Grethe for their dedication and service to Mt San Jacinto and the NHA.

WEBSITE: Joe Migliore

Facebook updates: Royce Jones

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

New pictures posted on our Facebook page. Continue to receive "likes".

EDUCATION: Allison Barnes: See State Park Report

RETAIL: Jim Forneris Not Available

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Floor Heater for VC has been purchased and is working great.

OLD BUSINESS:

TABLED: STATUS INCOMPLETE: Review and revise bylaws

POSTPONED to 2017: Stone Creek Campground: Wood Sales, Safe, Credit Card Reader

POSTPONED to 2017: Photo Contest

NEW BUSINESS:

Partnership Skill Building: New ideas, remains open

Confirm MSJNHA board members for 2017; Iona Scapple submitted resignation from the NHA board.

NHA Program Proposals for 2017: See email from Joe Migliore sent on December 31, 2016, for complete details.

GENERAL DISCUSSION: Coordination of hikes for a fee discussed; hikes would include interpretation, hike rating and time frames. Legalities discussed; non-profits can offer programs for a fee. Multiple suggestions for how to advertise included brochures, website, and contacting hotel concierges. Royce Jones and Carl Maple will come up with ideas and work with Alison Barnes

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NEXT BOARD MEETING: February 13, 2017

REFRESHMENTS: Phyllis Keys

ADJOURNMENT: 1902

Transcribed from original notes on January 20, 2017
Original notes attached
Suzanne Tracy

EMAIL NHA PROGRAM PROPOSALS for 2017 (from Joe Migliore, Sent on 12/31/2016):

Hi Board and Liaison,

I would like NHA and the park to get programs for the public up and running. We can do it! If we agree, let's get it "up and running" by spring/summer at the latest. Please check the ideas below and think on it with comments, additions or any ideas for the next board meeting, on Jan. 9, 5:30 as usual. Mark, are there any restrictions to participation by park staff in any of these proposed programs?

Individuals named here are just for example and not exclusionary.

Joe

NHA PROGRAM PROPOSALS:

Many people in the public are not comfortable hiking alone. Nature walks are scheduled but not publicly promoted outside of the park in advance. Tram is not a deterrent if the programs are special and in demand and offered in advance (seasonally) and require sign-up, perhaps with tram discount incentive or whatever we can arrange.

Fees: free (guest pays tram fare)

Fee plus (including tram fare)

Fee, program only (guest pays tram fare)

Free with discounted tram fare (arranged with tram)

any other options proposals..... (this requires careful planning so that it's simple for the guest and us, and modestly profitable, or not. Tram fare could make the difference.)

Guided hikes:

Guides: volunteers, rangers, guest specialists like birding, geology, botany. Like Ali, Kurt, Katie, and other guests, etc.

Interpretive hikes:

botanical (seasonal for wildflowers)

botanical (primarily perennial, trees and shrubs)

Birding

Geology

Comprehensive (ecology)

Any topic preceded by short visual presentation in the Nichols room

Hiking and interpretive destinations:

Hidden Lake

Hidden Divide

Shangri-la cross country w/or without Cornell or Cornell Saddle

The peak

Day long loop hike via Little Round Valley and Strawberry Jct., Wellman's divide.

Round Valley loop

Miller Ridge cross country from Cornell Saddle ?

Desert View.

Mountain Sta. to Idyllwild via Wellman Strawberry Jct. and

either Dear Springs/Suicide Rock or Saddle Jct. (shuttle)

Tahquitz Peak Lookout from Saddle Jct. or South Ridge (with Lookout visit?).

Ranger led mystery hikes (now only volunteers)

The Summits, over 10,000 ft.: S.J., Jean, Marion, Miller, Drury (all at once or not, for peak baggers who can't do it all at once, very strenuous and cross country)

Education: possibly combined with walk/hike

Photography: Winter and Spring/summer

Geology

Birds/wildlife

Botany

Wilderness Travel, Ranger led. This could be a prerequisite for some of the all day hikes, subject to past experience.

(GUIDED HIKES AT THE MON. VC HAVE BEEN VERY POPULAR FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS, ESPECIALLY DURING WILDFLOWERS.)

POSSIBLE HIKE LEADERS: ALI BARNES, CARL MAPLE, ROYCE JONES, BILL SOLYLO, JED REGHANTI, SANDY JONES, ETC.

EMAIL VC Heater for 2017 (from Jim Forneris, Sent on 1/4/2017):

Letter from Jim Forneris attached

On Jan 4, 2017, at 2:40 PM, J Forn <jforn29@gmail.com> wrote:

Until Jan 17 I am up past my chin with Film Festival responsibilities so I will be unable to attend the January 9th board meeting.

If the agenda has not been finalized yet, can you add appropriating \$60. to purchase a floor heater that might provide adequate heat for those who volunteer to work the VC.

Costco has a Lasik floor heater for around \$50. that might provide more heat than the two foot warmers we are currently using.

Thanks,

Jim Forneris

January 4, 2017:

The following MSJNHA board members have sent approval for heater purchase: Kurt Leuschner, Joe Migliore, Suzanne Tracy, Robert Pellenbarg, Maureen McCarty. Royce Jones has confirmed purchase with delivery to VC on Friday, January 6, 2017.

January 5, 2016

Joe Migliore and Board Members

Everyone who has ever worked the VC during winter months knows how cold the area can be. I am one voice seeking a solution to the problem and I think my "whining" has finally been heard.

Ron of the maintenance department has promised to run a dedicated circuit into the VC capable of servicing a heating unit. I have been shopping for a floor heater small enough to fit within our cramped space but strong enough to provide the heat needed and I have located one that can do the job.

I would like board authorization to purchase a Lasko 1500 watt floor heater from Costco that sells for around \$55.00 including taxes. This same heater sells at True Value for \$99. so the Costco price seems reasonable. It is advertised as being capable of heating an entire room but if it heats the VC, I think all of us who work the VC will be pleased. If it does not heat the VC it can be returned and the refund used for another heater unit Costco sells.

Since I will not be at the January 9th meeting I will depend on you to advocate for the purchase of a floor heater for the VC.

Thank you,


Jim Forneris
NHA Board Member