

**MOUNT SAN JACINTO NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**

DATE: March 13, 2017

CALL TO ORDER: 1737, 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, Jim Forneris Retail, Dennis Schirmer Science, Maureen McCarty

MSJ VOLUNTEER REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Carl Maple

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

ABSENT: Bob Pellenbarg, Vince Llacer, Todd Friedman Supervisor

APPROVE MINUTES PRIOR MEETING: February 13, 2017

MOTION: Approve minutes for February 13, 2017

BY: Royce Jones, **SECONDED BY:** Kurt Leuschner, All in Favor and Carried: Yes

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Treasurer's Report, Royce Jones and Phyllis Keys

Statement of Assets, Liabilities, and Net Assets for February 2017:

Report attached to minutes.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Compared to prior year: Sales up 11%, Gross Profits up 269%, Expenses down 43%, Donations and memberships down 35%, Spending increased on interpretative products 2016 \$1700 to current \$2260
Accounts are in the positive covering 2016 losses.

SRSJ Wildflower Festival generated \$413.00 in sales; seller's permit cost \$105.00; profit \$308.00.

MOTION: Approve \$500.00 to Al Johnson for 2016 tax preparation.

BY: Royce Jones, **SECONDED BY:** Jim Forneris, All in Favor and Carried: Yes

State Park Report, Mark Hudgens Sector Superintendent, Todd Friedman Supervising Ranger
Park Interpreter Report, Allison Barnes

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Mark Hudgens discusses possible wilderness shutdown because of avalanches. Courses on recognizing avalanche dangers discussed and included a non-profit group, Southern California Avalanche Center, located in Big Bear, California. Group representatives viewed Mt San Jacinto and would like to install a weather monitoring center; group would certify all Mt San Jacinto staff and the public. Purchase of four avalanche kits (beacon and shovel) discussed. Approximately \$6000 to \$7000 in funding from the end of the fiscal year are available for purchase of rescue equipment.

Trafx counters received and awaiting installation; two counters will be placed in Long Valley and one counter on the Deer Springs Trail.

Willow Creek trail inspection/survey for reconstruction by Statewide Trails Crew is scheduled for April 2017. Trees down on Deer Springs trail removed.

Working on reopening Stone Creek campground; electrical project will be completed within a few weeks. A safe has been delivered to Idyllwild for installation. A credit card reader is needed; use of a pad with credit card capability discussed. A splitter is also consider for internet access.

Gas operated campfires for use at Stone Creek discussed with consideration of insurance and liability; possibly have the renter sign a release and make a credit card deposit to cover damages; an inspection protocol certifying equipment safety discussed. Potential use is rental to the public; possibly renter could provide propane. Mark will discuss potential campfire rental and liability considerations with supervisors.

Allison Barnes reports April 2017 is filling with many school programs. Funding requested.

MOTION:

- 1) Approve \$800.00 for James Madison third grade class on May 24 for transportation and tickets for 60 children.
- 2) Approve \$790.00 for Calimesa Elementary second grade class, date to be determined, for transportation and tickets for 60 children.

BY: Royce Jones, **Seconded by:** Jim Forneris, All in Favor and Carried with one abstention. **Abstained:** Dennis Schirmer

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State Park Report Cont.:

Attending the CUE/Computer Using Educators conference at Palm Springs Convention Center on use of technology in interpretation; will report at next NHA meeting.

Telescope not purchased but will work with Royce Jones to complete this.

Natural Science, Dennis Schirmer: Nothing to report

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Consideration of removing this from agenda discussed. Original intent of the Natural Science Collaborative was coordination of all Coachella Valley group activities; focus has changed to education. Kurt Leuschner sometimes attends meetings. Will remain on agenda.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

MEMBERSHIP: Joe Migliore

MSJ Membership Campaign, includes renewal campaign email

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Sent 78 emails after last board meeting with 72 successful deliveries; 34 emails remain unopened. One renewal as a result of the campaign; not a success but will continue the membership drive.

Getting in Touch with Nature programs discussed; programs will be offered free to NHA members and to non-members. Programs are an opportunity to solicit membership or donations. Fees may be considered in the future.

Bob Pellenbarg has sent a lesson plan for the geology talk. Programs will be offered every season and eventually will work with the PSAT/Palm Springs Aerial Tram in promotion of program. Will include Bill Solylo, MSJ CaSP Ranger, and request including posts on the CaSp MSJ Facebook page.

Discussion of working with the BSA/Boy Scouts of America; Allison Barnes will talk to a new volunteer with BSA connections regarding badges for this group.

WEBSITE: Joe Migliore

Facebook updates: Royce Jones

GENERAL DISCUSSION: Facebook "likes" are increasing.

RETAIL: Jim Forneris

VC counter repairs

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Power source for display cases is inadequate.

NHA supplies continue to sell at the PSAT; supplies are purchased directly by PSAT. NHA Inventory continues to be reduced. PSAT is amenable to MSJNHA Visitor Center selling supplies. Cabinets are needed; will continue to investigate this. PSAT is planning an extensive remodel and wants to involve both California State Park and NHA personnel. Jim Forneris and Vince Llacer continue to attend WPA/Winter Park Authority meetings.

OLD BUSINESS:

TABLED: STATUS INCOMPLETE: Review and revise bylaws

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

GENERAL DISCUSSION: See Mark Hudgens State Park Report

POSTPONED to 2017: Photo Contest; Remains on agenda for future consideration

NHA Program Planning Proposals for 2017 Reports:

Allison Barnes Astronomy: Report attached

Kurt Leuschner Birding: Report Pending

Carl Maple and Royce Jones Backcountry Essentials: Report received and attached

Bob Pellenbarg Geology Report Received

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

"Visit a Pluton" will consist of an hour in the classroom followed by a hike.

National Volunteer Appreciation month, April, potluck and mystery hike

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GENERAL DISCUSSION: Will look at a date for this, possibly April 29, 2017. Open to NHA members and volunteers; Allison Barnes will work on communications for this event.

Volunteers assisting with some duties for NHA: Remains open

Partnership with Coachella Valley Wildflower Festival 2017: See Treasurer's Report

NHA Membership Cards: Alternate methods for enhancing image

Joe Migliore presented NHA membership cards using an Avery laminated card program. Well received. New card is a definite improvement over the former paper membership card.

NEW BUSINESS:

Partnership Skill Building: New ideas, remains open

Weekly Digest from California State Parks: Remains open

Use of a monitor to communicate with public entering the LVRS/Long Valley Ranger Station discussed; would include current events and planned programs.

MOTION: Approve \$500.00 for a 42" video monitor and mounting kit for use at the LVRS/Long Valley Ranger Station from the education fund.

BY: Kurt Leuschner, SECONDED BY: Jim Forneris, All in Favor and Carried: Yes

NEXT BOARD MEETING: April 10, 2017

REFRESHMENTS: Royce Jones

ADJOURNMENT: 1724

Transcribed from original notes March 20, 2017

Original notes attached

Suzanne Tracy