

Friends of the Tonto NF Board meeting 1 June 2020 Zoom Meeting

Our May board meeting was moved back one week due to the Memorial Day holiday.

The meeting was held on Zoom. Present were: Ann Adkins, Pete Allard, Patti Fenner, Winnie Liang, John Matteson, Don Pike, Susan Sridharan, Brian Stultz and Scott Wood. The meeting was called to order shortly after 6:00 PM

We began with a quick check-in of all participants.

There was no President's report.

John Matteson let us know he is retiring from the board effective June 30. He reviewed the status of the Campaign/Reavis RTP Trail maintenance grant. Scott has now followed up with the new Forest Archaeologist, who has told him the project is a priority for Recreation and he will be doing what is needed to get the project going.

He mentioned the Payson District has been funded for a State Parks grant to maintain 4 miles of the Highline Trail west of Washington Park.

Brian said that the NWSA Trail Stewardship Grant that Wild Arizona applied for was not funded. This has been an ongoing grant and Friends should look for this funding opportunity for 2021. AZ Wilderness Coalition's grant proposal to NWSA's Wilderness Stewardship Performance Grant, for solitude monitoring in the Mazatzal and Hell's Gate Wilderness areas was funded. They will be doing outreach and online training for this project.

Treasurer's Report - Susan: Susan received an email from GE saying the two checks for \$5000 each, that match Don Pike's donations, have been issued now. A motion was made by Susan and seconded by John to restrict those funds to invasive plant projects.

Susan and Bert are working on the budget for the remainder of 2020 and are requesting all board members to submit any expenditures or income expected for the rest of this calendar year. Don brought up that Kelly Kessler had sent a note to us asking if we would support a project to grow out milkweed seeds gathered locally and plant them (and probably water them too). Patti and Susan will follow up with Kelly for specifics.

There is an invasive species grant from the State Dept of Forestry and Fire Management, coming open on June 19. Don is keeping an eye out for the announcement, and is planning to apply for a project to treat invasive grasses with herbicide, by a contractor.

Most board members have now let Susan know their average hours spent per month doing FOTNF work, so she finalized the federal tax forms and will be meeting Patti to get her signature and then mail in our 990 form.

Executive Director's Report - Patti: The Riparian Photopoint project is very popular during the quarantine. People have commented that they like the ability to look at the available sites' topo maps and access details online. We have had 11 new volunteers this season, and 22 returning volunteers, for a total of 33 volunteers. They are doing better at taking good photos this year also. Maybe the online version of the training powerpoint makes its points better than sitting in a room listening to Kathy and Patti teaching! The pandemic may have forced us into a situation where we actually improved this project.

We are now insured through Conserv-a-Nation, a company that seems to understand our needs better than the last one. We have Directors and Officers Insurance, Commercial Insurance (that covers non-members, for example people who go on site tours of Sears-Kay during our

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annual open house), and Volunteer Accident Insurance, so we don't have to depend on the FS for this any more.

The timesheet for people to enter their work hours and miles is available on Dropbox. So far all issues people have brought up have been fixed. It's very easy to use - just type your name, use the dropdown menus for project and district, and type in hours and miles. Be sure to save the original and don't make a copy - that makes it difficult to reconcile multiple copies of the timesheet. It's important for us to track hours and miles, so we can use this for grant matches and build a record of time spent on various projects.

The Forest has assigned their Payson YCC crew to work with Scott at Shoofly Ruin this summer. The initial date was July 6 - 10. It has now been bumped up to June 15 - 19. Scott will be there to work with them on brushing at the site.

Brian asked if the Communications Committee had discussed using services like Constant Contact for a more comprehensive tool to use for mailing list, member, document and data management. Winnie will ask Elizabeth and Erin about this, for their recommendation for the board.

Georgy's last membership report showed we have lost 8 members. Do we know why? Pete will follow up with them and ask. Might help to stay in more regular contact with our mailing list, even just short notes to let them know we're still around.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Fenner  
Exec. Dir.