

Friends of the Tonto Board Meeting July 27, 2020 Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Brian at 6:02 PM. Present on the Zoom phone call were: Pete Allard, Patti Fenner, Winnie Liang, Don Pike, Bert Roy, Trent Shue, Susan Sridharan, Brian Stultz, Scott Wood and Eric Yamane. We had a quorum (7 board members).

President's Report: Brian would like to get together with the Communications Committee. He would like for us to use either Mail Chimp or Constant Contact. We tabled a motion to move into one of these platforms until we've had a chance to visit with Elizabeth and see what the Communications Committee has done. Brian will send an email to Elizabeth and Erin to ask. We agreed to vote over email before the next meeting if neither Erin nor Elizabeth has had time to do something on this.

Financial Report: Bert purchased a refurbished Dell laptop computer for \$560. It exceeded the \$500 that the board authorized so Bert donated the extra funds to make the purchase. Thank you Bert! Susan used IRS Form 179 to depreciate the computer all at one time. Other expenses included postage for the riparian photopoint program, soil for the milkweed project, and fees for our domain name.

A Foundation based in Ohio donated \$2500 for the third year in a row. Patti sent them a thank you letter. They requested anonymity.

We have \$9,386.14 in our checking account; \$19,707.52 in our money market savings, and 3 CDs that total \$20,176 that come due the end of July (will be rolled over to come due in January, one for \$10K that will come due in September, and one for \$5K that will come due in December).

Susan completed the 990 and filed our taxes in June. Next year she will be unable to file the way the IRS wants (electronically), so we will need to find an accountant to do that. She has a lead on one from our QuickBooks adviser, and will make some calls in a few months.

Susan and Bert will be working on the budget for 2021 the end of this year.

Bert showed everyone the laptop he bought, with a carrying case and also breakage coverage so if it breaks they will replace it. He's loading Microsoft 365 onto it, which is free through TechSoup.

He proposed that we clearly put our mission statement on the website.

Executive Director's Report: Patti said her term is coming due the end of this year, so everyone needs to be thinking about a replacement. Plus replacements for other officers. Patti will write an outreach and Brian will help with it.

Grants being applied for:

Don Pike - Described the DFFM Invasive Plant grant he applied for. Ryan Nicholas, Forest Invasive Plant Manager is supportive, to the extent he will try to fund it if we are not successful in obtaining the state grant. We requested about \$38K for an herbicide contract and manual removal contract. In-kind volunteer match is using volunteers on 3 years of weekends to maintain cleared areas by manual removal. Part of the proposal is to educate the adjacent communities about these invasive grasses.

AWC is also applying for a DFFM Invasive Plant Grant, to continue work in Arnett, and broaden it to Malta starthistle, African sumac tree of heaven and palm tree control. We are a part of this one - our part is continuing the riparian photopoint monitoring.

The City of Apache Junction Public Works Department is also putting in for this same grant. Some of our members will assist them with their work. We have helped them map their weeds when they put in for this before. Patti wrote them a letter of support.

Continuing Projects:

Milkweed project: 21 volunteers are growing seedlings for 2 sites on the Forest - Wildcat Trailhead on Cave Creek RD and Phon D on Mesa RD.

Kelly Mott LaCroix at the SO wants us to help monitor after large fires, starting in the fall. We'll find out what sites they want done this fall. She also wants us to continue with Woodbury.--

This and That:

Pete followed up with 8 members who didn't renew. 4 or 5 said they had or intended to. One couple had used the other's name to renew. 4 didn't respond.

Susan asked where our membership list is - Georgy usually does the membership report. It's in the Google Drive - if she can't find it, she'll call Patti.

Insurance with trailer? Did Eric find out if his insurance company covers liability when it's hooked to his truck? He just changed insurance and hasn't found out yet.

Brian heard that State RTP fund has doubled in size this year. Would be a good time to put in. They would probably consider infrastructure such as a pipe rail barrier at Shoofly.

Eric will be getting more involved in getting corporation volunteers/donations. He's backing out of the Wilderness Stewardship Program of the Mesa Ranger District. Patti offered to get him our IRS Tax Determination Letter for this purpose. Don told him we are registered with Intel. They give \$\$ to education projects. He's thinking of companies such as insurance companies. We all support him in this effort - it's an important thing to do that we haven't spent much time on to date.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Fenner