

Friends of the Tonto Board Meeting August 24, 2020 Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Brian at 6:05 PM. Present on the Zoom phone call were: Pete Allard, Dayan Anderson, Patti Fenner, John Matteson, Georgy Naimoli, Don Pike, Bert Roy, Trent Shue, Susan Sridharan, Brian Stultz, Scott Wood. Angie Able from the Payson District attended as a guest to present a proposal to the board. We had a quorum (7 board members).

Angie was introduced, and asked for participation by FOTNF to help with funding the archaeological survey that is required for the Highline Trail re-route project. There are three other partners who are contributing to funding the arch survey - Volunteers for Outdoor AZ, AZ Trail Assoc, and Pine/Strawberry Fuels Reduction Team. She had mailed us information and maps on the project to look over a few days ago. The Highline Trail has been designated the number one priority for the Rim Country Collaborative Trails Initiative. 30 miles of re-route have been identified, for a total trail mileage of 60 miles. The area has received a lot of fire damage. This area has also been identified as a priority watershed (East Verde headwaters) by the Tonto. NEPA is moving forward, but they need arch clearance. They need approx. \$5500 for Task 4, which is what she is asking us for. The Tonto got 4 bids for the arch survey - Tierra was low bid, plus the Forest Arch has had good experience with this company. Angie is looking at other partners too, but wanted to ask us. John Matteson said this is a great project, a worthy place to spend our \$\$\$. Partners will be recognized with signage at key trailheads. After some discussion the group voted unanimously to donate \$3000 at this time, and tell Angie that if she is not able to find the other \$2500, she should come back to us, and we will have another vote to contribute the remaining amount. We will also feature the project on our website (possibly FB also), and create a way for people to direct donations to the Highline Trail project. This is a good way to keep our public engaged, as things have gone pretty quiet on the website since the end of the riparian photopoint season.

President's Report: Brian has not been able to make contact with either Elizabeth or Erin from the Communications Committee about Mail Chimp and G Suite. G Suite is free for nonprofits. AWC pays about \$2/month for over 100 GB of space. We could use the space for backup for the riparian photopoint program photos, among other things. Brian started looking into it and said it didn't look too hard to set up G Suite. We need for the Communications Committee to throw in their opinion, then Brian can work with them to get it to happen. Patti has been corresponding with Elizabeth on a different matter, and will let her know that Brian wants to talk with her. We voted to move to the nonprofit G Suite, and Brian will work with Elizabeth to get it done. Brian will send out an email asking how each of us wants our name in our corporate email address. Bert asked that he, Brian and Patti get together to be able to set and authenticate passwords for the new G Suite account.

DFFM grant - Don has not heard if our grant was selected; Brian has not heard about the Arnett project yet either.

Treasurer's Report - Susan: In cash and CDs we have \$47,800; \$29,433 is unrestricted funds; \$18,367 is restricted for use on invasive plant work. \$20,008 is in short-term CDs - one, for \$10K expires Sept 29; one for \$5K expires the end of December; the third for \$1040 expires the end of January. Brian asked if there could be a problem having available cash to pay the contractor if we get the DFFM grant. Susan said no, our funds are liquid enough this won't be a problem. Over the course of the 2-year project we need to be able to front the payments to the spray contractor and to the ACE crews for \$18,350 and \$13,200, respectively.

We've paid for 2 years' worth of D&O and "Employment" insurance and for one year of Liability and the required Commercial Package insurance. Total was \$2397. The Grant and Agreements specialists told us we should be able to request and be reimbursed by the Forest Service for our liability insurance.

Patti said that our insurance agent told her the Commercial Package includes something called "Rented/Non-owned Vehicle coverage". This would be liability insurance in the situation that the tool trailer comes unhooked from a vehicle of one of our volunteers pulling it, and it damages something.

Executive Director's Report:

Patti did a write up that is the basis for a call for nominations for new board members and officers for the October election. Brian will review it. Election will be in October. Brian asked if outgoing board members (Pete, Erin, Eric and Bert) are wanting to do another term - Bylaws limit service to eight consecutive years in one position. We need to do a mailing to our entire mailing list, and post something for outreach on the website.

Patti has posted a timesheet in Dropbox for everyone to enter their time, such as for meetings. Some things to be careful of - 1) be sure you don't mess with anyone else's time that they've entered, and 2) save the document without making a copy. We don't want multiple copies of the same time document that we would have to correlate. Bec told Patti that she now wants us to turn in hours the end of every month. If you don't know how to access or use the timesheet, call Patti and she will help you.

Patti and Brian are meeting with Brooke on Wednesday to get a new Master Challenge Cost Share Agreement drafted.

Patti, Scott and John are going to Payson, Shoofly Village Ruin, on Tuesday to meet with Angie and the new Ranger and possibly the new Forest Archaeologist to go over the pipe rail project, that we are considering putting in for a new RTP State Parks grant for.

Membership Reports - Georgy: Georgy told us that of the 8 people we have lost as members, 2 re-upped after being contacted by Pete. Brian asked that if we lose members, please bring their names to the board so we can follow up to find out why. Time to do a new newsletter - good timing because of elections, show them we're still alive and doing stuff. Usually it would be in October, because things pretty much quiet down in the summer. Georgy will do, and said she is willing to continue to produce the newsletters. Brian offered to help.

Ongoing Projects:

Riparian Photopoint season summary - Patti's working to create a summary document to give to the FS. When all the hours are counted, we should have about 1000 volunteer hours; 42 volunteers monitored 229 sites on 46 streams. 5203 miles driven.

Water Source Inventory Project - Don: No one is really doing this now. Don did some work on the tutorial so it could be posted like training for the riparian photopoint program, but we don't have it posted on the website yet. Get back with Kelly MLC this fall.

Dayan asked if FOTNF gets involved in doing plantings post-fire. The Tonto doesn't plant much after fires, but the Hydrologist has asked us to do post-fire photopoint monitoring - that will be this fall.

RTP Grant for Campaign and Reevis Trail work: John said he talked to Mickey Rogers at State Parks, who said we should be getting an "Engagement Letter" by September 15. We need to sign it and turn it around quickly. Patti will keep an eye out for it. Soon as we get it, John will contact the ACE crews to see how quickly we can get them out. John asked Mickey about us doing another RTP project at the same time as this one, and Mickey said you can't get funding for a new grant until the first project is at least 50% complete. This shouldn't be an issue if we get the crews out to do the trail work in the fall.

Don - has been representing the FOTNF at CAZCA (Central AZ Conservation Alliance) meetings. This is a group of orgs being coordinated by the Desert Botanical Garden. He would like some other participation from another FOTNF member. Dayan offered to pitch in on this project. Patti will send her email to Don so he can update her with what she needs to know and get her on the mailing list. They're doing a lot of nonnative invasive plant work coordination, and also work with wildlife corridors. Also post-fire rehab. They have a theme called "Desert Defenders." The Tonto NF has not been involved, other than Brooke going to some meetings. Any one organization is limited to 3 participants.

Patti clarified where rumors may be coming from saying we have disbanded, they aren't true. Also, coincidentally Brooke put us up for a Regional Volunteer Award. We can put this on a wall we don't have!

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Fenner