

Friends of the Tonto National Forest  
Minutes for Board Meeting 28 December 2020  
Remote Zoom meeting

Call to order – Don P. - 6:08 pm

Attending were: Pete Allard, Trent Shue, Scott Wood, Susan Sridharan, Patti Fenner, Don Pike, Bert Roy, Dayan Anderson, Elizabeth Butler, and Urb Weidner

President's Report – Don (Brian out of town)

- Brian is to get back to Don mentioned regarding NSWF grants, which may become available.

Executive Director's Report Patti

- Friends' branded clothing for sale. No need for inventory. Various items including shirts, windbreakers, denim work-shirts etc. (Note: This was covered prior to official start of meeting.)
- Conflict of Interest forms still need to be submitted from some Board members.
- Received a donation from the Desperados Trail Scouts
- Need to vote for an Executive Director at tonight's meeting.
- Perhaps should hire someone for part time. Patti could train the person. Don said he and Brian have talked about having someone work on an hourly basis to handle administrative work. Would start out with something simple and work into a broader scope of work to include all admin work. Per Don, could do a better job in some areas.
- Executive Director selection by the Board – Unanimous vote for Patti Fenner
- Time reporting – Everyone should submit time reports for the year. Submit personal hours except for group projects in which case the leader would fill out the form. Form contains name, district, project, miles and hours Travel time should be included. Patti will send the form to the Board. Form is on-line.

Membership Renewals – Georgy (Note: Not in attendance; report submitted on 12/21/20 as Membership Report for Board meeting)

- 42 individual members, 26 families, 1 organization = 69
- 5 new members: Allen Wilson, Julie Appert, Toni Vallee, Cathy Davis, Jack Carlson
- 14 membership renewals: Nelson, Waterman, Fenner, Boswell, Harris, Snodgrass, Sridharan, Wood, Shue, Tack, Story, Butler, Naimoli, Liang

- Georgy will turn over tracking membership to Pete. However, she will continue to do the newsletter updates. Pete will keep track of membership related activities and renewals. Forms and info have been passed along to Pete by Georgy

- There has been a situation with our website being called out as a risk when using PayPal. Elizabeth will look into it.

- Per Patti, there is a charity organization for federal employees. Patti and Susan are looking into applying for the Tonto. Suggest trying it for a year to see how it goes. \$15 application fee; and \$365 once accepted into the program. Felt that we would probably be accepted into the program. Scott/Patti donating initial application fee.

- Question re: Highline trail – Received invoice for \$3000, which will be paid. Money is covered by a donation.

### Financial Report – Susan (Note: Financial reports were submitted in advance)

\$ 11,568.52 Checking  
\$ 21,375.74 Money Market  
\$ 20,224.88 CD's  
\$ 53,169.14 Total  
\$ 18,366.75 Less: Restricted  
\$ 34,802.39 Net Unrestricted

A CD for \$5,051.17 came due on 12/26/20 and will automatically renew. Another for \$5048.82 will come up on 1/31/21.

#### Income (11/22/20-12/27/20):

\$ 1000.00 Desperados Trail Scouts donation  
2650.27 Individual donations  
1.00 PayPal Giving Fund  
625.00 Membership dues  
9.92 Interest & dividends  
(1.29) Merchandise sales  
\$ 4,284.90 Total Revenue

#### Expenses (11/22/20-12/27/20):

\$ 18.50 PayPal fees  
40.00 Merchandise logo expense (one-time charge)  
63.06 Facebook ads  
65.63 Milkweed Project  
\$ 187.19 Total Expenses

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## \$4091.71 Net Income (11/22/20-12/27/20)

- Finances are in good shape. Covered all our yearly expenses.
- Susan requested input on budget detail items such as corporate donations, etc. She will work with those who cover affected areas.
- Question of whether to set goals for areas such as membership and fundraising, which would then be reflected in the 2021 budget. Budget should not just reflect last year's numbers but should reflect our goals. Potential growth in areas such as merchandise sales should be reflected. Per Susan, a little over breakeven for year. If intend to expend programs, will need plan for more revenue.
- Approval requested to pursue tax accounting support. Told by tax accountant service would cost between \$400-600/yr. Company is TPG Tax & Accounting. Assistance required since we cannot use the postcard approach as in the past. Moved by Patti, seconded by Urb. Approved for up to \$600 for tax return preparation and filling by TPG.
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## Communications Committee Report – Elizabeth

- Nothing new to report.
- Per Patti, have project protocol which includes how to submit items to Elizabeth for the website. This will be sent to the Board & committee members.

## Cultural Committee Report – Scott

- Met with Cave Creek district people regarding Sears-Kay rerouting of the trail, which comes off the hill, and maintenance needs. Scott will start working on erosion control and removing burnt bushes. Trails were exposed by the fire.
- Shoo-fly - will get request for bids for the fencing. Then can start looking for money. We offered that we would do this for the Forest Service. May need grants/donations to cover costs. Archaeological groups may be open to assist financially. Cost of fence could be in \$10,000 range.
- John's RGP grant – Not working as hoped. Wrote paper clearance with no survey. Created map of areas they had not looked at. These areas have to be avoided. Therefore, job is reduced to brushing without work on the tread. Not much brushing required. John is aware of problems. Will be more hours available than work to do. Expect Friends to come up with 67 hours or money. No need for us to do anything now. Need to make sure all requirements are known ahead of getting involved in future projects.

## Central AZ Conservation Alliance (CAZCA) Liaison - Dayan

- Met with Ariana and will meet again at Tovrea Castle to look at restoration gardens to see what they are doing vs what we are doing in order to determine how coordination can be improved.
- Regional Open Space Conference on Feb 27, 2021. Offer to partners to do 5-10 minutes presentation, which could be prerecorded. Will also be four breakout sessions, which it's suggested our representatives could attend.
- Talked about posting our events to their website. Trying to launch a collaboration hub to which events could be posted. Would include a common calendar.
- Will contact botanist to find out about other restoration work in the Tonto.
- Sonoran seed collaboration whereby seeds are collected on the Tonto and a common place for seed storage. Don suggested Kelly Kessler as a good contact.
- CAZCA has logo "Desert Defender", which we have permission to use. May be advantage for a presentation showing what we are doing in order to get more volunteers for weed removal. CAZCA is trying to promote a uniform form of communication between organizations for work such as restoration. Per Elizabeth, concerned that CAZCA website only emphasizes Maricopa Cty whereas we cover more than Maricopa Cty although involvement more likely to be Maricopa Cty people. Presentation could be one PowerPoint slide on each of our activities, e.g. Invasive project, Milkweed, PhotoPoint, Scott's work, etc. Plan is to have a draft by next meeting.

## Ongoing Projects

### Invasive Plants update – Don

- Have made good progress. Suggest fund raising campaign; however, awaiting Forest Svc. Good turnout on 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays. Will not be using herbicide. Per Patti, no action on cross-sharing agreement. Don pursued and told to be patient.

### Milkweed Update – Patti

- Both sites doing well. 50 growing at each site, and watering schedule in place. Nice article w/photo in "Copper County News". Elizabeth said we should send info regarding our activities to newspapers.
- Payson town council wants to start a milkweed garden in a Payson park. We will provide assistance, but not leadership.

## Google Data Base – Bert

- Sent out list of committees with those involved. Some discussion on who is on various committees so that list can be updated by Bert.
- Wants some help regarding directories needed and who should have access what info. Should move info to Google Workspace so that it is available in one location for those who need it. Material is safeguarded and automatically backed up. Questions include how to tag photos and organize storage among other things.

### Google Analytics – Trent

- Google Workspace environment. First step is to get everyone on Friends of Tonto email. Target Jan 1<sup>st</sup>. Shared drive – should be one with varied ownership for different areas. Trent has doc to go to those with Friends email address.
- Could use Google Meet rather than Zoom. Will use for next meeting.

### Boyce-Thompson Arboretum- Pete

- Met with new director. Lynne Nemeth. Wants to work with us and get into more conservation and invasive plants.
- Invited us to prepare an article for “Desert Journal”. Will create an article for them. Pete will see what’s needed for the article. Board agreed to have Pete take the lead and further pursue this. We should commit to do these types of articles in the future.
- Pete suggests we visit Arboretum to familiarize ourselves with what they do.

Next meeting: Monday, Jan. 25, 2020

Adjourned: 7:56 pm

Submitted by:

Urb Weidner

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