

Friends of the Tonto National Forest
Minutes of Board Meeting 25 January 2021
Remote call-in by video, using Zoom meeting ID: 210 895 3486

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

6:08 pm Call to order – Don

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

- No report

Executive Director's Report – Patti

- Sent annual report – Compliments to Patti on excellent report
- Finished Combined Federal application. Susan will review.

Financial Report – Susan (see financial report sent in advance of meeting)

- Closed books for 2020. Sent accounting report to accountant. Accountant says books look good as does tax return. Said we could still use 99N postcard for tax returns. Most donors don't expect a form in excess of what is required to be filed. Since books in good order, would cost \$500. Need accountant if go beyond postcard filing. Requirements based upon revenue. We have silver status. Decided we will use the postcard approach to save money.
- Question of having someone outside organization look at books. Accountant did review at a high level. Don't need an audit at this point.
- Motion made to go back to filing vis postcard for 2020. Motion passed unanimously
- Susan explained YE accounting dates vs 12/28 last meeting and Jan results.
- Donations: in last few days of 2020 received \$1,000 from Dentons US LLP, Erin's legal firm, \$230 total from 3 individuals, four family memberships, and \$10.22 from interest/dividends. Total = \$1,380.22
- Received invoice for Highline Trail for which we gave a \$3,000 donation. Paid in Jan for invoice written in Dec.
- 2020 Net Income = \$12,763.14. This consisted of a profit of \$13,545.37 on restricted funds and an unrestricted loss of \$782.23.
- \$5,000 CD coming due on 01/30/21. Will roll it over.
- \$394.69 brought in since 01/01/21 from various sources.
- After expenses, YTD2021 net income = \$233.62
- Per Bert, need sign-off on YE2020 financial report. Also, need to work on budgets for 2021. Bert does not have software to review QuickBooks financial files. Question of how many licenses for the software and who has the software installed? Asked Susan to recommend a plan for review of financial info. Per bylaws, audits/reviews are optional.

Communications Committee Report – Elizabeth

- Committee did not meet this past month; will meet prior to next board meeting.
- Brought up need to get a handle on Google Suite. We need an overview and push to use it. Not clear if this is up to the Communications Committee. Per Bert, Trent created instructions; however the Board is still not using it effectively. Takes effort. Patti suggested an ad hoc committee to bring focus on it. Patti, Trent, Don, and Bert will participate. Patti to take lead and suggests Brian also be involved.
- Still don't have everyone's new email address in the system. Should go to friendsofthetonto.org. Georgy does not want another email address.
- Determined we need a friendsofthetonto.org address to which inquiries and general emails are sent.

Cultural Committee Report – Scott

- Two workdays at Sears-Kay in last couple of weeks and trying to address post-fire problems. Hauled tons of rock to shore up trail.
- Open house planned for March 7, 2021. New trail coordinator participated and showed appreciation.
- Working on getting specs together for RFP for fence. Sent latest version to district today. Will determine how much money required. Intend to do field days there in April, 2021. May also have an open house. Don't know when we will get archeological clearance for fence. Hope to get started on bidding and grant writing.

Natural Resources Committee Report – Don

- Susan covered Milkweed status: Concerned about cold weather; however, so far, looking good.
- Patti covered Photopoint. Had three meetings with the Forest Service re: priorities. Emphasis on fire areas. Web site in good shape. Looking for volunteers in March, 2021.
- Don covered Water Source Inventory – Need additional volunteers. Trent volunteered to be involved.
- Should have on-line training for everything we do such as water source inventory.
- Superstition Mountains invasive clearing. Removal done so far has eliminated the need for herbicides. Lots of work/good progress.
- Need to talk off-line about restoration in the fire areas. Could pick a demo area to keep red brome grass out and plant native species.
- Looking at fundraising \$30-50K over a couple of years some of which to be used for restoration. Per Dayan, can also tie in with CAZCA programs on collecting seeds & site restoration. Don suggested we contact Kelly Kessler about this.

Membership Committee Report – Pete

- Has picked up maintenance of membership records and mailing lists of Board and members.

- Just sent Annual Report and a notice for invasive removal in Superstitions. Notice regarding the new membership renewal process also sent.
- Georgy assisting in transition to Pete.
- Have potential articles for Boyce Thompson's "Desert Journal". Sent info to Director as to what we can provide. Can result in good exposure for Friends.
- Per Susan, she sends out the thank you letters for renewals and donations.

Membership – Georgy (Info pulled for report sent in advance of meeting)

- 47 individual members, 30 families, 1 organization – 78
- 9 new members: Richard Negri, Phyllis Smith, Joseph Sallak, Jack Carlson, Franklin Wells, Wendy Whitman, Barbara Deutscher, Elaine Taylor, Thomas Ward
- 7 membership renewals: Stultz, Bradham, Allard, Rayburn, Blahnik, Mullen, Troxel
- 31 members have not yet renewed for 2021. Will be sent an email.

Central AZ Conservation Alliance (CAZCA) Liaison report – Dayan

- CAZCA having on-line speaker series tomorrow. Also, meeting on 2/25/21.
- Charts presented by Dayan are attached
- Showed draft template of slides and a logo to provide commonality. Showed mission and examples of programs and could have contacts for each. Presentation can also be sent to the AZ Master Naturalist Program.
- Discussed how various Adopt-A-Site locations are handled. Shoofly Ruin and Sears-Kay Ruins will be covered in the presentation.
- Discussed projects to be included in the presentation.
- Will target next draft for 2/12-15/21 timeframe.

New Business

- Elizabeth provided information on Network for AZ Trails. Intent is to have legislation for an Office of Outdoor Recreation including funding for outdoor experiences. Covered draft statement on importance of outdoor recreation. Some other states have departments focused on outdoor recreation. Question of whether Friends want to officially support the statement. Elizabeth will find out when a decision is required.
- Don suggested we should discuss at another meeting whether we take positions or not. Should have something drafted on what is suggested. Don and Patti will talk to Brian.
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Adjourn 8:06 pm

Submitted by:
Urb Weidner

