

Friends of the Tonto National Forest
Board Meeting - 22 March 2021

Meeting held using Zoom. Attending were Pete Allard, Trent Shue, Scott Wood, Susan Sridharan, Patti Fenner, Don Pike, Bert Roy, Dayan Anderson, Brian Stultz, Eric Yamane, John Matteson, and Urb Weidner

Call to order at 6:03pm – Brian

President's Report – Brian

- Nothing specific report. Will add to other parts of agenda

Executive Director's Report – Patti

- Been working on Photopoint and the forms which are involved. Separate training sessions planned for new people and past volunteers. Meetings will be via Zoom.
- John's report – Shawn and John inspected the work on Campaign and Reavis trail in Superstitions. Lot of tread work accomplished. Plan to get additional workers to fulfill the matching requirement. Will do a final inspection and file the final report in the 2nd quarter of 2Q21.

Financial Report – Susan (Note: Susan submitted full Treasurer's report w/detail prior to meeting)

Cash & Investments:

\$ 8,896.69. Checking

\$22,705.80 Money Market account

\$20,248.31 CD's (There are three CD's – One, coming up on 3/29/21, will be reinvested)

\$51,850.80 Total cash & investments of which \$18,366.75 is restricted for invasive plants

Revenue: (2/21-3/21/21)

\$ 30.09 Donation from Amazon Smiles

\$ 125.00 Memberships

\$ 8.54 Interest & dividends

\$ 163.63 Total Revenue

Expenses: (2/21-3/21/21)

\$ 3.40 Paypal fees

8.79 Facebook advertising

8.59 Office Supplies

78,19 Printing

50.00 Milkweed project – 5 Wildflower books to volunteers

12.12 Postage for Milkweed

237.80 Printer ink cartridges for Photopoint

\$ 398.89 Total Expenses

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(\$ 235.26) Net Income (loss) for period of 2/21-3/21/2021

\$ 705.30 YTD 3/21/21 Net Income

Additional financial items:

- Will attempt to sell remaining Wildflower books for \$20 each
- Patti sent in the 990 postcard tax filing for 2020
- Financial reports were put on Google Drive

Communications Committee Report

- Don concerned that we are not keeping up with communications and the keeping the web site up to date. Also, could use help on use of Google Drive. Discussed need for part-time administrative support. He suggests we need a proposal of what is needed. Brian mentioned that Wild AZ has a couple of people who work on a part-time basis for their social media presence. He said we should be able to find some technically knowledgeable young people, who, if given the information, could handle it. Don suggests we have a proposal by our next meeting for review, discussion, and approval. Brian requested input from board members as to what could be handled by either a part time person or on-demand multiple people. Patti will start a list and put it on Google Drive for others to add to it.
- Patti reminded us to enter our time spent on Friends' activities onto the time report. Data should be entered into a form which is then loaded into Google Sheet. However, there has been a problem getting the form to the new friendsofthetonto address. Don will send the link to the form. The form for invasives is also on a different drive.

Cultural Committee Report – Scott

- Conducted an open house at Sears-Kay on March 7th. Had a big turnout; one of the best ones in quite a while. Put in a lot of hours getting ready for it. Many new people found out about it via Facebook.
- Planned to do inspection at Shoo Fly last weekend, but was snowed out. Will do this weekend. Talked to the contractor, who will probably do the rail fence regarding materials. Should have a bid by the end of March. Brian asked if we should apply for state funding to pay for that. Scott said still waiting for archaeological clearance.

Natural Resources Committee Report – Don

- Patti covered Photopoint status including training for both new and returning people. Quite a few signed up for the training. Have received priorities from the Forest Service.

- Discussion of volunteer vs partner designations. Met with Brooke Wheelocks to review projects as to volunteer vs partner. Decided to be a partner organization. Not covered by Forest Service insurance. Friends have our own insurance. Will use the Waiver/Volunteer form to sign up people. Will no longer call in and out to dispatch. We require an emergency contact for all participants and suggest more than one person on projects. Still need to let Forest Service know what and when we will be doing the projects. Send a note to Ryan regarding the project and dates.
- Trent said Kelly can do water sources training in mid-April, which will be both virtual and a field day. Already has a number of interested people. Will meet with Kelly to arrange details. While people can go out on their own, Trent will also hold group sessions each month. At the site, will split into smaller groups.
- Suggest purchase of two CB radios for use in the field. Cost is about \$99 each plus tax/shipping. Motion by Don, second by Patti for Trent to get necessary radios. Motion carried.

Milkweed – Susan

- Looks good. May go to once-a-week watering from current 10 days. Susan said we will monitor for eggs & larvae in the Fall. Training will need to be provided for volunteers. Don said Kelly wants to do plantings at two additional locations. One will probably be Rattlesnake Cove, a site which has been adopted by the Asian-American Lions Club. Eric said to let him know so we can involve them as much as they'd like in milkweed planting/watering at Rattlesnake.

Invasive Plants – Don

- Don said still waiting for SPA (Supplemental Project Agreement to use Burned Area Emergency Rehab funds on invasive grasses on the West face of the Superstitions in the area that burned. Ryan Nicholas has not submitted it yet. Want to get grasses out of big wash. Looking at late Spring. If Forest Service does not provide funding, Don will request Friends' financial support. It was suggested that Forest Service funding will not come, and we should use money we have set aside for use for invasive plants. Motion by Brian to use Friends' monies to cover the cost of crews for this effort. Second by Scott. Motion approved. Cost will be about \$8,000.

Arnett Creek – Brian

- Will continue work on re-treatment of oleanders during April 21-23. Will have link in Chat box to sign up. Create Storymap with photos and maps. This is on the Wild AZ website and will put link on our website.

Membership Committee Report – Pete (Note: Membership report detail received via email)

- 36 individual members, 20 families, 1 organization = 57
- 3 new members
- 2 membership renewals

- The 25 members, who have not renewed for 2021, have been removed from the membership list. Three notices were sent to the membership informing them of the January renewal date. We felt 3 months was enough time for any member, who wished to renew, to do so.
- Pete has been setting up lists for notices for work events. Don had set up Desert Defenders list for use for notices to work groups. Added names from Sears-Kay open house.
- Earth Day celebration support of Boyce Thompson Arboretum on April 22nd. - Pete suggests we support Boyce on Earth Day with info table or some other support. Patti volunteers to cover table on Earth Day.

Common Calendar- Discussed by Brian. We can share our events on calendar created by Wild AZ. Volunteers are able to see volunteer opportunities and take a link to sign up for the event. Brian will work with someone as to how to use the calendar.

Central AZ Conservation Alliance (CAZCA) Liaison report – Dayan

- Sonoran Seed Collaborative – Dayan discussed a central network of places to store seeds for use as needed in case of fire, etc. Looking at possibilities for storage locations such as colleges, Desert Botanical Garden, or Boyce Thompson. Abbie Smith, Education Coordinator, is a contact at Boyce. Couple of purposes: To encourage people to plant native plants, and to learn how to plant/grow the plants. Could work with programs at community colleges. Still in initial planning stages. Could do some test spots in Superstitions and may be able to get some funding from the mining companies, which operate in the area. There also are other commercial seed collaboratives for large projects in the SW
- Brian spoke of the upcoming Restore Earth campaign, which will run over four weeks with four different themes.
- Pete mentioned the tree planting being done at Rio Salado over a four-mile stretch. Goal is to bring the river back to as it was.
- Dayan said on March 31st the AZ Master Naturalists will have a panel via Zoom at which we could cover what Friends are doing and planned events. Dayan will upload the presentation to Google Drive.

New Business

- None

Meeting adjourned at 7:47pm

Submitted by Urb Weidner
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