

Friends of the Tonto National Forest  
Minutes for Board Meeting 28 June 2021

Attending via Zoom: Trent Shue, Scott Wood, Susan Sridharan, Patti Fenner, Don Pike, Eric Yamane, Urb Weidner, and guest, Helene Tack, who has worked on the Photopoint project

6:00pm Call to order – Don

President's Report – No report

Executive Director's Report – Patti

- Closure Order – Until end of July; however, could be extended depending on rain.
- New Volunteer Agreement/Liability Waiver & Project Protocols – Continuing to work on electronic waiver form, which will be done prior to Fall signups.
- Combined Federal Campaign is like a United Way but for federal organizations. Applied to be on their list and was accepted. The cost to apply was \$340 and there is a listing fee of \$17. Hope to get some donations.
- Strategic Plan/Bylaw Review – Review should be done every five years and timing is right to do it now. Bylaws should be done every Sept. Proposed reviews be done by one committee to be selected by the President. Intent is to complete the work by Sept. Motion made by Patti, seconded by Trent, for the President to appoint an ad hoc committee to review the bylaws and the strategic plan and report back to the Board by Sept. Motion carried.
- Campaign/Reavis Trail Final Report – Has been turned in; not yet approved.

Financial Report – Susan (Detailed financial report submitted prior to the meeting)

Cash & Investments as of 6/26/21:

\$ 6,603.31 Checking

23,292.39 Money Market account

20,269.37 CD's (There are three CD's)

\$50,165.07 Total cash & investments of which \$32,124.12 is unrestricted

Revenue: (5/23/21 to 6/26/21)

\$ 37.01 Donation AmazonSmile

4.00 Donations – Paypal Giving Fund

149.00 Embroidered clothing orders

110.00 Membership dues

40.00 Wildflower books sold

(20.00) Remove sold books from inventory

9.59 Interest & dividends

\$ 329.60 Total Revenue

Expenses: (5/23/21 to 6/26/21)

\$ 4.98 Paypal fees  
251.25 Master at Threads (for embroidered clothing orders)  
257.52 Storage Unit Rental (6 months)  
176.06 Storage unit rental (prepaid in 2020)  
29.81 Advertising – REI posters  
20.00 Thank you gifts of Wildflower books to volunteers (removed 2 bks from inventory)  
53.87 Milkweed Project: seeds, envelopes, & marking flags  
\$ 793.49 Total Expenses

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(\$ 463.89) Net Income (loss) for period of 5/23/21 to 6/26/21

(\$1,217.70) YTD Net Income (loss) through 6/26/21

#### Cultural Committee Report – Scott

- Regarding pipe rail barrier for Shoo Fly - We had agreed to replace the fence which goes around the entryway and parking lot. Original plan was to do a pipe barrier similar to what had been done in other areas. First bid came back at \$70,000, which was twice as high as anticipated due to soaring price of steel. Discussion with Forest Service led to consideration of a less substantial fence. A bid of over \$40,000 was received for this option. After discussions with Angie and input from Board members, it appears it may be best to delay the project until the steel prices subside or an alternative design, which would be more cost effective, is found to be adequate.
- Considered federal government purchasing power. It was determined we would get the same bid that the Forest Service would get.
- The proposed fence is planned to extend 1,042 feet.
- It was decided to suspend the project pending lower material prices. Scott made a motion to suspend the Payson pipe rail fence project and revive it at some future date. Second by Patti. Motion carried.
- Met with the new forest archeologist and discussed future plans. It was agreed to meet to plan long term projects and reinvigorate the cultural committee. Anticipate a good working relationship in this area.

#### Noxious Weed Project/grant proposal – Don

- Have supplemental project agreement (SPA) from the Forest Service for \$8,000 and are committed to do the removal of Buffelgrass and fountain grass. Working with the Arizona Conservation Corps to have youth groups to do the work, which is planned to start on Oct. 26, 2021 in the Superstition fire burn area. Most of the \$8,000 will go to the AZ Conservation Corps.
- Have started an application for an invasive plant management grant with the Dept of Forest and Fire Management (DFFM). Their priority is for type A & B species and in high fire

probability areas. Buffelgrass and Fountain grass are C species. For the most part our area is not in the high priority area. Had planned to fund one week of AZ Conservation Corps with \$8,000 Forest Svc grant and a second week with DFFM funding. Also, concentrations of Stinknet exist, which will be added to the project funding application. Total project could be up to \$75,000.

#### Water Source Inventory Project – Trent

- Conducted training; however, not much going on now with the heat and the closure due to fires. Will start up again when the weather cools.

#### Riparian Photopoint – Patti

- Getting the photos and packets turned in and shutting down for the summer.

#### Milkweed – last planting and planning for 2021 planting – Susan

- Due to the closure, we cannot water at the Wildcat site; however, Kelly Kessler will water at that site until our volunteers can again get into this area. We can continue to water at the other site.
- Planning to plant at new locations in the Fall.
- Patti said we will start at the end of July with growing plants from seed in biodegradable bags as was done last time. Almost 100% survival with the use of the grow kits. Home Depot will again donate roughly \$400 in materials. Should plan for 22 volunteers for the new effort.
- Have a photo of a butterfly larva on one of our plants.

#### Membership Committee Report –

- Two families and one organization memberships added.

#### Recreation/Trails – Susan/Patti

- Desperados have committed to donating \$10,000 to Friends of the Tonto. Will be restricted funds for trail development in the Cave Creek District. Work will involve trail maintenance and signage. Susan & Patti met with two Desperados leaders and the Cave Creek Ranger. Desperados have created a list of priorities.
- Susan and Patti attended a webinar for AZ St Parks & Trails regarding grants, which would provide for funding in 2022. \$10,000 could be used for matching funds. Suggests we apply for a grant. Grants are for non-motorized trails. Process involves a call, pre-application, and then submission of the application.

- Motion was made by Scott to support the development of a plan for the Cave Creek trail system project leading to a grant proposal to implement. Seconded and passed unanimously.

#### New Business

- Urb raised a question as to whether we should take positions on issues such as the Resolution Mine, which will adversely impact a sizable area within the Tonto. It was discussed that we currently work with and take the lead from the Forest Service as opposed to actively taking positions on controversial issues.
- This is an area which can be addressed as we review the bylaws & strategic plan. Urb and Eric volunteered to be on the committee to review the bylaws and strategic plan.

Adjourn - 7:22pm

Submitted by:

Urb Weidner

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