

Friends of the Tonto National Forest
Minutes for Board Meeting 28 March 2022

Attending via Zoom were Don Pike, Scott Wood, Patti Fenner, Dave Ettelson, Helene Tack, Pete Allard, Susan Sridharan, Dayan Anderson, Eric Yamane, Urb Weidner, and Darleen Sims

6:05pm Call to order – Scott

President's Report/Election results – Scott

- Welcomed new member, Darleen Sims. Board members introduced themselves.
- Will be making visits to rangers to determine needs and projects. Discussed with Cave Creek ranger about doing something with the Copper Creek cabin. Someone had offered to fix it up, and Friends were contacted to potentially be involved.

Executive Director's Report – Patti

- Sent a time sheet to the Board for input to the Forest Service
- Need some help with our website and have contacted a person to assist with postings
- Presented to Master Naturalists and received interest in Photopoint participation
- Unable to reach Erin Bradham regarding her future involvement with Friends of the Tonto. We are looking for new people for the Friends' Board

Financial Report – Susan (Detail submitted by Susan for Friends' database)

Highlights of financial area:

- We need to record our time spent of the invasive plant project as that time counts as a match for the grant.
- Accountants QuickBooks ordered - \$135

Cultural Resources Committee Report – Scott

- Shoofly project update for installation of pipe railing. Have experienced high steel prices and difficulty in finding contractors to do the work. However, have received pipe rail from the Cave Creek district, which will help to address the costs. Have also lined up a reliable, reasonable priced contractor.
- Made a grant application for \$16,300. State Parks rejected the grant request.

- If we do what was originally planned, could do the job for \$14,500. Scott suggests we fund the project from our unrestricted funds. Shoofly would be a very visible project; however, Don suggests we create a fundraiser and grant applications to pay for it. Don had previously offered to donate up to \$5,000 if matching monies could be raised. And, the \$5,000 could be applied to the Shoofly project. If so, fundraising still required to achieve the matching money as well as the additional funds required.
- Discussed possible use of GoFundMe to obtain funds. Solicitation could be made on our web page and via emails to our members. Could prepare "President's Challenge".
- Illustrates need for a Friends' fundraising committee.

Natural Resources Committee Report – Don

Noxious Weeds – Don

- Accomplished a lot addressing the Stinknet. Did not totally cover the intended acreage due to COVID and recruiting issues. Did cover about thirty acres.
- Have also been doing matching volunteer work in the Superstition Mtns on Fountain Grass. Have averaged around eight volunteers for each work session.
- Will send out a proposal for an additional 400 invasives' brochures to be printed at an estimated cost of \$350. Will also look at alternative quantities if financially advantageous.
- Has been working with Superstition Area Land Trust, an organization that works on trail building. Their agreement with the Forest Service had expired; however, they can work with us. Don trained a person, who will be doing an event primarily next Wed in the hieroglyphics trail area to work on Buffelgrass removal.
- Working with another trail building group, who do work in the Utery Mountains, to have them address invasives while doing trail work. Also worked with Natural Restorations to try to get their people trained. They are working on replanting in the Bush fire area and potentially could also address invasives when they are planting. Need long term commitment to accomplish.
- Apache Junction Park & Rec also interested in addressing invasives in their area.

Water Inventory Project (Notes received from Trent)

- Organized a training with the Forest Service for the Payson Springs Monitoring Project. Seven volunteers attended. Kelly will provide a list of springs to be monitored and the required equipment. May be able to provide funds to Friends

for the purchase of the equipment or Forest Service will provide. Will have future training sessions.

Recreation/Trail Projects - Susan

- Plants in good shape at Rattlesnake Cove. Next effort will be to develop a monitoring program looking for eggs and larvae at sites. Patti will contact Kelly Kessler to see if she or someone else will provide training. Darleen is currently actively involved in this work.

Cave Creek Trail Project – Susan

- Trail maintenance event was held with thirteen people at the Cave Creek trailhead. Performed trail maintenance and signage improvements on 2 miles of 35-mile trail. Grant from the Great American Outdoors Act was received by the Cave Creek Ranger District.

Riparian Photopoint – Patti

- Three training sessions have been held. Have almost 30 volunteers.

Adopt-a-site – Eric

- Been considerable volunteer turnover. Have conducted a couple of cleanups; however, volunteer numbers are lower. Working to expand. Had successful event in February at Rattlesnake Cove. Will pursue Wells Fargo for future volunteers; will get on their list.

Membership Committee Report – Pete & Helene (Pete submitted report via email)

- 35 individuals, 14 families, 4 organizations for a total of 53
- Sent renewal notices
- Helene created a volunteer form and put it on the website. Info will go into a spreadsheet to for use by those who head up a specific area.
- Helene working with Board to determine what is needed in the Customer Relationship Management (CRM). Will look at options for volunteer feedback and tracking of membership and donations to be done at a reasonable price.
- Helene would like any current volunteers to add a review to our profile on the VolunteerMatch website.

Central AZ Conservation Alliance (CAZCA) Liaison

- Dayan showed presentation material.
- Sonoran Seed Summit on Apr. 5, 2022, at Desert Botanical Garden. Will strategize for future native plant material development in Central AZ. Dayan is on the planning committee.
- On April 6-7 will be conference on improving abandoned mine lands. Intent is to influence Congress to provide legislation to clean up the landscapes.
- Dayan will pursue how we might work with other groups on a joint effort to allow a focus on marketing and social media.

New Business

- Patti will send time sheet access to Board to ensure everyone has it.

7:40pm Adjourn