

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

Attending via Zoom were Don Pike, Scott Wood, Patti Fenner, Dave Ettelson, Helene Tack, Pete Allard, Susan Sridharan, and Urb Weidner.

6:04pm Call to order – Scott

President's Report/Election results – Scott

- Welcome to new board members – Dave Ettelson & Helene Tack
- Plan to increase interaction with Forest Service. Will visit district rangers to see what type of projects would be useful to them.

Executive Director's Report – Patti

- Received invitation to April 23rd Highline Project Celebration in the Payson Ranger District
- Applied for the Combined Federal Campaign. Cost is \$354 to get on the list.
- Be Outdoors AZ videos were made. Susan reviewed our Milkweed planting efforts, Urb covered our involvement in the Photopoint program, Scott covered Sears-Kay, and Patti reviewed the Friends' organization. We have the videos except for Scott's. Our events can be posted on the Be Outdoors calendar. Moved by Patti, seconded by Urb, to provide access by Be Outdoors to our calendar for posting to their calendar. Motion carried.
- Storage Space rent has more than doubled from \$45/mo. Will be looking for another place for use after current lease expires.

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

Highlights of financial area:

- According to our bylaws, an audit is required. Susan suggested this be done by a company with whom we have previously worked for a cost of \$135. Moved by Don, seconded by Pete, to accept proposal from QuickBooks Non-profit Services to perform the audit. Motion carried.

Cultural Resources Committee Report – Scott

- Finished maintenance work at Sears-Kay and preparing for the open house at Sears-Kay next Sunday.

- Shoofly – Awaiting RPG grant and will be starting pipe rail fencing project this Spring.
- Scott will be working with the Forest archeologist to see what other things could be considered.
- It was suggested that we consider the use of Meetup and/or sending an email notice of the open houses.

#### Membership Committee Report – Pete (Pete submitted report via email)

- Have 32 individual memberships, 13 family, and 4 organizations = 49 total
- 4 new members since Jan meeting
- Will send renewal reminders to members who have not yet renewed.
- Have a form, which can be used at open houses for potential members
- Discussed who should be in the contact database and how to tell if they are active members or not

#### Natural Resources Committee Report – Don

##### Noxious Weeds - Don

- Got involved with National Restorations at Bush fire burn area. Were able to get excess volunteers and had them pull Buffelgrass near parking areas. However, removal needs to be ongoing as opposed to one-time events.
- Had contact with Superstition Land Trust, whose agreement with the Forest Service has expired. They do not have a new agreement. Don went with them and did not find Buffelgrass; did find and pull Fountain grass. Plan to go with them to a site having Buffelgrass and show them how to identify Buffelgrass.
- Had contact with Hawes Trail Alliance. They have been building trails in Usury Mtns. Don asked if they would pull Buffelgrass along the trails.
- EDRR SPA – Plan for monitoring. Working with app developers on this.
- Crews working on Stinknet at the Broadway trailhead. Has been difficult due to growth status of the plant at that time at the location. Also had to cancel one week because of COVID. Wild AZ will be working on this for 10 days. Buffelgrass is a huge problem.

##### Milkweed for Monarchs – Susan

- Plants at Rattlesnake doing well with limited damage from the recent cold weather.

- Will need a monitoring program to look for butterfly eggs. Will require a training program for volunteers. Patti will check with Kelly Kessler to see if Kelly can be involved.

## Recreation/Trail Projects

### Cave Creek Trail Project – Susan

- A 35-mile trail between Spur Cross and Seven Springs needs significant work. We have \$10,000 from Desert Mountain Desperados, and the Cave Creek ranger district received \$100,000 financing from Great America Outdoors Act Group. Will work on 15-mile section this year. On 3/19 will have a volunteer day to work at Spur Cross to clear out the boundary area between Spur Cross and the entrance to the Tonto. Heavy brushing will be done in the Fall. Note – location of the work was changed after the meeting due to the rodeo and parade going thru Cave Creek that day. We will work instead on the #4 and #247 Trails starting from the Cave Creek Trailhead north of Seven Springs.

## Central AZ Conservation Alliance (CAZCA) Liaison

- Last meeting was attended by Patti and Don. Can tie in with numerous environmental groups. Patti presented the development of the Friends of the Tonto and the partnerships, which have been established.

## New Business

### Membership process – Helene (shared graphics on screen)

- Could add a page for volunteering regardless of membership status. Reviewed draft of suggested page created by Helene.

### Customer Relationship Management Database – Helene (shared graphics)

- Can provides one location for all contact information. Everyone on the Board can have access to this data. Need to determine our needs and how data management can free up our time.

### AZ Economic Recovery Center - Helene

- Focusing on small non-profits to assist in finding grants for projects. They research grants and match non-profits with available grants. Grants come out during the 2nd half of the year. Could help cover needs we may have for admin support.

Fundraising proposal – Don

- Don proposes that he will match a donation to Friends up to \$5,000. Challenges the Board to raise the matching \$5,000 by the end of 11/22. Various alternatives were discussed.

Photopoint training – Patti

- Training will be conducted on March 14<sup>th</sup> for past participants and March 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> for new volunteers. Note: Changed from March 14 to March 21 for past participants. 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> are the same.

7:36pm Adjourn