

Friends of the Tonto National Forest  
Minutes for Board Meeting on 23 May 2022

Attending via Zoom were Don Pike, Scott Wood, Patti Fenner, Dave Ettelson, Helene Tack, Pete Allard, Susan Sridharan, Dayan Anderson, Urb Weidner, John Matteson, and Kathy Balman

6:04pm Call to order, Scott

- Introductions of board to Kathy Balman

President's Report – Scott

- Still trying to set up meetings with District Rangers to establish needs
- Met in Payson and are setting up a presentation at the district staff meeting.

Executive Director's Report – Patti

- Arrangements being made for first aid/CPR training. Will open it up for attendance by a limited number of people outside of the Board.
- Hired web support person for three months. Work will include making the web site more secure for on-line payment of dues.
- Met with person who does professional fundraising to get additional ideas as to what we can do to raise monies for Shoofly and other activities.
- Had a request from the family of a man who died in the Superstitions to work with us for increased signage. We will follow-up with them to determine what could be done and how it might coincide with our efforts.

Financial Report – Susan (Reports submitted in advance of the meeting and are in Google Drive)

Highlights:

- Received \$19,000 reimbursement from the Dept of Forestry & Fire Management (DFFM) grant.

Cultural Resources Committee Report – Scott

- Fundraising Plan for Shoofly. Did not get State Parks grant. Looking into Heritage Fund and National Trust Preservation Fund grants, both of which will be pursued.
- Considering event as had been done at Sears-Kay with a focus on lining up donations. Will need active participation of the Board to accomplish the various tasks for this event. Looking for \$16,000 including up to \$5,000 matching funds from Don. Motion made by Patti seconded by Urb to use Don's \$5,000 as a match to start the Shoofly fundraising campaign and post this on the website as a match for donations to be used on Shoofly. Motion carried unanimously.
- Intend to hold the event in Oct, which could tie in with an indigenous peoples' event. Dayan will contact people to see if interested in support of our activity. However, in the meantime, numerous fundraising related work will be done prior to the event in Oct.

## Natural Resources Committee Reports

- Noxious Weeds - Don

- A screen was shared with the Board showing a map of results of the Superstition Mountain Project. Illustrated was that a large amount of work has been accomplished. Youth groups were used for Buffelgrass and Fountain Grass removal.

- The plan for the Userly Mountains was covered. Considerable Buffelgrass has been found.

- Met with Maricopa County Flood Control District, who said they will clear the wash leading into the Tonto.

- Also trying to get the Hawes Trail people to remove invasives as they see them during their trail work.

- Next season will have the completion of the DFFM grant in the Superstitions.

- Still working on photo monitoring app.

- Would like to have a brochure holder at the trailhead; need approval for this.

- Water Source Inventory Project – Trent submitted information

- Need water monitoring kits, which each cost \$750. Forest Service will provide one and it's requested that we provide one kit. Motion made by Don to purchase one kit. Motion carried.

- Milkweed for Monarchs – Susan

- Watering at Rattlesnake and Phon D. Plants are doing well.

- Started monitoring program at Rattlesnake and the Cave Creek Ranger station. Training was done with Kelly Kessler. Monitoring will be done once per week through May. Will start again 1<sup>st</sup> week of Sept.

- It was suggested that our fund-raising efforts spell out specific needs such as the water quality kits.

- Riparian Photopoint – Patti

- Have over 60 volunteers and just trained another group.

## Cave Creek Trail Project – Susan

- Will be meeting with Jordan from the Cave Creek Ranger District, Jan Hancock the Maricopa Trail Director, and Ernie Wieber from the Desert Foothills Mountain Bike Association.

## Membership Committee – Pete (Report submitted in advance of the meeting)

- Member numbers: 62 memberships in total

## CRM database - Helene

- Sent info to our contact for CRM, who will look at the material and get back to us.

## Central AZ Conservation Alliance (CAZCA) Liaison report – Dayan

- Sonoran Seed meeting on June 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Trying to understand effects of leadership change at CAZCA and if any new direction.

## New Business

- Mazatzal Wilderness Project proposal from John Matteson for trail signage and brushing in the Wilderness in which there are a total of 240 miles of trails. Plan is to initially work on about 10 miles of trail. Has interest from the Forest Service to participate. Working on \$50,000 grant through the AZ State Parks. Grant to be made by Friends of the Tonto. John will manage the work, which will include paid crew and volunteers. Money comes from Federal funds. Some matching required, which should present no problem. Money will be paid directly to the contractor and will not go through Friends of the Tonto. Need support from the Forest Service. Motion made by Don to approve John's proposal with Friends' review of proposal prior to its submission. Motion carried.

8:02pm Adjourn