

Friends of the Tonto National Forest
Minutes for Board Meeting 28 August 2023

Attending via Zoom were Patti Fenner, Scott Wood, Don Pike, Helene Tack, David Ettelson, and
Urb Weidner

6:04 PM Call to order – Scott

President's Report – Scott

Executive Director's Report – Patti

- Elections will be held in Oct/Nov timeframe. Positions open include President, Treasurer, and Board Member At-large.
- Helene suggested we contact past volunteers and/or our total membership as to the upcoming elections and the positions which are open. Helene will create a notice to be sent to our volunteers and donors.

Financial Report – Susan filed financial documents in Google Drive

Donor Perfect – Helene

- Have set up registration forms for invasive plant management and are determining what can be accomplished using Donor Perfect and well as its limitations.
- The liability waiver has been put in place and is being used. Its use provides many benefits.
- Helene will provide on-line training to the project leaders as to the use of Donor Perfect.
- Will have separate web pages for volunteers and membership. Will send to Patti and Susan for review. Will then send to Frank for the web site update.

Natural Resources Committee Report – Don

- Have scheduled a mapping and monitoring event on Sept 14th. Will focus on monitoring; however, if a small patch, will do some removal. Will include training for the mapping. Will be at the Wildhorse trailhead off Bush Highway.
- The first invasives removal event is scheduled for Oct 14th.
- Have been working on the map program to be able to add layers.
- Have spoken to the Forest Service regarding adding data to their map. No conclusion yet; however, will probably continue with our map.
- Should shortly hear results of the DFFM 23 grant application.
- On Nov 4th, Natural Restorations will have the annual cleanup at Four Peaks. Will include non-native plant removal. Friends of the Tonto have been asked to participate in the planning and implementation of invasives removal as part of the Natural Restorations event. We could also participate by having a Friends' table at the event. We will also put their event information on our website. Then, on Nov 11th, they will have a planting event. There will be a planning event, which Helene will attend, for more information as to what is required.

Social Media – Helene

- No new news to report.

Telescope Night – Scott

- Looking to hold the event in the Oct timeframe at Badger Springs. Waiting to hear back from the person who will conduct the event.

Heat Safety Signs/Chris Dyer Family – Patti/Helene

- Signs have been installed in the Cave Creek and Mesa Districts, which had requested signs. No specific signage locations were identified by other districts. Patti did a great job placing the signs at the numerous trailheads.
- Discussed trailhead days in which to hand out water, whistles, and trail guidance. Would conduct these in the Fall.

Central AZ Conservation Alliance (CAZCA) Liaison report – Don

- There was a meeting on Aug 28th. CAZCA participation is expanding. A considerable amount of material is available from CAZCA. Numerous groups are looking at solutions to the Stinknet problem.

New Business

- Patti said AZ Wild has been holding planting events. Next one is Nov 4, which she will attend.
- Helene suggests the end-of-year would be good for fundraising for our organization. We should put together our needs and the amount of money needed to meet our plans.
- Don willing to provide additional matching funds as in the past. Says costs to combat invasives with herbicides have risen dramatically.
- Patti monitored and watered milkweed sites. Wildcat looked good as did Rattlesnake and the Cave Creek Ranger station. Plants at Sears-Kay are small.

7:11 PM Adjourn