

**Friends of the San Pedro River
Board of Directors Meeting
December 9, 2008**

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** The meeting was called to order at 6 PM.
2. **ROLL CALL.** From FSPR Board - Chris Long, Ted Mouras, Sally Rosen, Dutch Nagle, Alan Blixt, Teresa Miranda, Robert Weissler, Anne Graf; FSPR members - Mike Foster, Ron Serviss; From BLM - Tom Dabbs, Jim Mahoney, Alex Howe, Reed Hoppus
3. **MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER MEETING.** Approved by Board.
4. **TREASURER'S REPORT.** Chris Long presented the budget and expenses through November. We are still in the red, based the linear budget projections. Sales slightly better than the bookstore manager's projections, but we need to be conservative with our funds and watch them closely. We anticipate that with the general downturn in the economy, our sales will be approximately ten percent less than last year.
5. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT** (Chris Long).
 - a. **Charleston Walk.** About 20 docents/volunteers came on the Charleston Walk. The site looks very good due to all the BLM efforts last summer. FSPR is appreciative of the chance to visit this site that is normally closed to public visits.
 - b. **Visitor Survey.** We had only a few questionnaires returned from San Pedro House. The Fairbank Schoolhouse questionnaires show that approximately 50 per cent of the visitors come specifically to hike. BLM took an action for the SCAs **Alex Howe and Reed Hoppus** to update and improve the trail map for the Fairbank Townsite. The map will be similar to the SPH Trails map and will show distances between landmarks (i.e., FSH to cemetery, cemetery to Grand Central, Grand Central to Willow Wash, etc.)
 - c. **Need to reprint Trail Guide for SPH** (cost approx. \$300 for 5000). This action was approved and **Ted White** (SPH Bookstore Manager) will coordinate with the printer for the needed copies.
 - d. **Fort Huachuca Grant.** FSPR missed the December deadline, but will follow-up with a March submission.
 - e. **Fairbank Townsite Articles.** BLM approved re-using two Jane Childress articles on the Fairbank Townsite for use in the *Tombstone Times*. This is a free paper listing events and information about Tombstone. **Chris Long** will review the articles for any outdated information and coordinate with the publisher of the paper.
6. **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT REPORT (BLM)**
 - a. **Solar System at SPH status.** Jim Mahoney reported that the system appears to be working. The drain on the system appears to be from the site host's vehicle. **Chris Long** will work with **Kathryn Ojiero** on potential grants for future replacement of the batteries. The current batteries are about seven years into a ten-year life span. BLM (**Jim Mahoney**) agreed to get an estimate of the cost of replacement batteries. This will give a basis for planning the future replacement.
 - b. **Storage Cabinets.** **Jim Mahoney** will try to find two metal storage cabinets for the back porch of San Pedro House.
 - c. **Display Cabinet.** **Jim Mahoney** will also look into the possibility of a larger glass display cabinet for SPH. This will be used for display of a variety of artifacts in the "Docent" room of SPH. The public is very interested in the artifacts and fossils that are already on display there and **Dutch Nagle** has coordinated with Murray Springs archaeologists for some additional specimens.

d. Replication of some Murray Springs Artifacts for Display. BLM agreed that FSPR could replicate the copy of the shaft straightener and other articles in the Murray Springs education box for display at San Pedro House. These will most likely be resin copies similar to the current ones.

e. Visitor Survey. Reed Hoppus asked the Board to review a BLM visitor survey questionnaire. The detailed survey takes about 10 minutes to complete and the FSPR volunteers at SPH and FSH will be responsible for requesting that visitors take the time to fill them out.

f. Boundary Fence. BLM in coordination with the Nature Conservancy walked the North end of the SPRNCA looking for breaks, etc. They will continue to work border fence issues. It is likely that gabions or metal fencing will be appropriate in several areas.

7. PROGRAM REPORTS

a. Docent Program (Chris Long). FSPR is still planning to hold Natural History Docent training in April. We still need a volunteer to run this program.

b. Education Program (John Rose). Ted Mouras reported for John Rose that 2008 was a successful year for this program. In addition to 17 school visits/river trips for 500 students, a new program is in the offing. Lori Kovash, working with Ginny Bealer, began a new school program of a scavenger hunt for common things found along the river.

c. Equestrian Program (Nancy Doolittle). No report this month, but the schedule for next year is complete.

d. Maintenance Program (Vacant).

(1) **Wildlife Garden Maintenance.** Ted Mouras reported that the Daughters of the American Revolution have done an excellent job on the wildlife gardens. They have removed many of the invasive plants and removed some of the non-native plantings. In the spring, they will plant some new native plants.

(2) **The Trail Maintenance** program is still in need of a leader.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Membership Committee (Vacant). Robert Weissler forwarded the "Business" Friends proposal to Tom Dabbs and it is currently moving through the appropriate BLM hierarchy.

b. Education Committee (John Rose). No report. See above for information on the Education program.

c. Public Outreach.

(1) **Census the beaver** on the river (Pat Adams and Cat McPhillips with Mike Foster). Mike Foster explained the program he is proposing. The program would monitor beaver activity along the river on a regular basis. **Mike, Pat, & Cat**, would watch the stretch of river from SPH to Lewis Springs. **Chris Long** will coordinate with BLM (Marcia Radke) to ensure that this project is in line with BLM priorities and requirements.

(2) **Pat and Cat** would also like to prepare a program for high school students to get them interested in the SPRNCA and natural history. They will prepare short write-up of what would be involved in this program.

(3) **Cooperative effort with NPS (Denise Shultz) wireless wildlife monitoring** (Ted Mouras). Denise has suggested that the BLM/FSPR should consider joining the NPS in proposing a network of remote sites with satellite connectivity for use in monitoring wildlife, water level monitoring, and serving as communications for safety/law enforcement. She has identified a program that might be able to fund such a network. Tom asked Ted to provide the brochure and Denise's contact information to Jim to look into this.

9. OLD BUSINESS

a. Cultural Docent Program. Ron Serviss presented the outline and dates for the Cultural Docent program. The purpose of the program is to have a core of docents who can give interpretive walks at the SPRNCA public historic sites (Murray Springs, Terrenate, Millville, and

Fairbank). Training will take place on Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings. The training dates are: Jan 22 and 24 for Murray Springs with Sandy Kunzer and Perrie Barnes; Feb 12 and 14 for Terrenate with Deni Seymour; Feb 26 and 28 for Millville; and Mar 12 and 14 for Fairbank. This program will be limited to current FSPR members, volunteers, and docents, membership of the former local archaeological society, and the site stewards.

b. 2010 Photo Calendar. Gary Noonan is checking alternatives on production for next year's SPRNCA photo calendar.

c. FSPR History. Gary Noonan delivered this to the printer; we expect the review draft after the holidays

d. Review 2008/2009 Calendar. Chris Long will add Jan 15 SAVE presentation by Tom Wood, the February 12-13 Cochise County Master Gardeners event, and the Jan 31 FSPR Newsletter deadline to the list.

e. Xeriscape Report. Ted Mouras is still awaiting the Community Foundation check for additional work on the garden. He has "winterized" the xeriscape. He is working with the Cochise County Master Gardeners on a brochure to explain the xeriscape.

f. International Migratory Bird Day (May 9, 2009). Dutch Nagle is the lead on this project. He has measured the sign for a new banner. Alan Blixt agreed to lead the 7 AM bird walk.

g. Cochise County Tourism Council – request for Bird Walk. FSPR will find a bird guide as an award for a tourist. Dates are to be determined.

h. DVD Program.

(1) DVD distribution. Mike Foster requested a new stock of videos to distribute both free to schools and educational programs and to show to potential retail stores for sales. The Board agreed to: 100 Beaver/Birds/Javelina, 150 Coati, 100 Our River of Life, in addition to 60 for district teacher's Lounges. The cost for the 410 will approximately \$610.

Dutch Nagle will coordinate with **Ted White** to order the duplication of these from University of Arizona.

(2) Reptile DVD. Mike reported that the Reptile DVD is ready to publish.

(3) Prehistoric Farming. Mike is working with Perrie Barnes on a new video on prehistoric farming methods.

(4) Mike is also in need of a new video camera. **Chris Long** will check with Kathryn Ojiero on potential funding sources.

(5) Ron Serviss suggested, that when possible, Spanish translations of the videos be done to distribute to Mexican schools. The Board agreed that this would be a worthy effort.

10. NEW BUSINESS

a. Discount for members? Ted Mouras recommended that we offer a permanent ten percent discount as a benefit of membership. The Board approved this recommendation.

Chris Long will coordinate with **Kathryn Ojiero** to ensure that as new memberships and renewals come in, the "thank you" note will include this information.

b. Review FSPR Projects/Programs/Activities assignment list. During a review of these positions several changes were made. **Chris Long** will send the updated list to the Board.

c. SV Visitor & Convention Center Bird Viewing Guide. Dutch Nagle reviewed this list for the SVV&CC. Many thanks to Dutch!

d. Fort Huachuca Military Volunteer projects. Alan Blixt passed to BLM the name and number of the volunteer coordinator for Fort Huachuca. The fort sponsors groups of volunteers for the general community. Alan recommended that BLM check with the Fort Point of Contact for support on trail maintenance, bench construction, and other labor-intensive projects. **Jim Mahoney** will contact the POC>

e. FSPR Newsletter. A few assignments were handed out, but other articles are needed, so please volunteer. Articles need not be long, a few paragraphs is fine.

(1) Chris Long – President's Message

(2) Chris Long – April Docent Program

- (3) **Alan Blixt** – EOP walks, Bird walks, and hikes
- (4) **Ted Mouras** – Ramsey Canyon Christmas Bird Count
- (5) **BLM** – Student Conservation Associates
- (6) **Anne Graf** – Aplomado falcons
- (7) **Ron Serviss** – Cultural Docent Program

11. **ADJOURN.** The meeting adjourned at 8 PM.

12. The next Board of Directors meeting is on January 13th. Chris Long will be out of town, so Ted Mouras will conduct the meeting.