

DRAFT MINUTES

Friends of the San Pedro River Board of Directors Meeting June 9, 2009

1. CALL TO ORDER 6:00 P.M
2. ROLL CALL. Board Members: Chris Long, Ted Mouras, John Rose, Anne Graf, Dutch Nagle, Robert Weissler, Sally Rosen, Teresa Miranda, Alan Blixt. BLM: Mark Rekshynskyj. Members: Terri Metzger, Ron Serviss
3. MINUTES FROM MAY MEETING. Approved
4. TREASURER'S REPORT (Jann Weiss).
 - a. Review budget charts. It was noted that the Bookstore profit for May was \$13,000, but sales have fallen off since the end of migration. As of June 9, the bank account has a balance below \$20,000 and we should watch our spending.
 - b. If we move our accounts to Compass Bank they will make a donation. If we refer our members to them and the members open an account--they will make a donation. If one of those members uses their debit card--they will make a donation. It was suggested that since we are satisfied with National Bank's service we should ask them if they would make the same offer.
 - c. Treasurer **Jann Weiss** will be leaving the Board at the end of her term; we need to find someone with accounting background to take her place.
5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Chris Long).
 - a. Publications.
 - (1) BLM Reptile List foldout – Complete and being distributed at San Pedro House.
 - (2) BLM Bird List Interim – on hold for now pending additional funds
 - (3) Fairbank Brochure – Complete and being distributed.
 - (4) Color Brochure – On hold for now pending additional funds we are very low on these.
 - b. Other near term expenses.
 - (1) Display Case – Has been set up at San Pedro House by **Dwight Long**. Some additional artifacts have been received from Vance Haynes, but we need a few more.
 - (2) New BBQ grill for SPH – will be used at the training dinner for the Wet/Dry Survey
 - (3) Wet/Dry Training – takes place Friday 12 June. **Sandy & Betsy Kunzer** will buy the supplies, cooks are scheduled.
 - c. Letter to City of Sierra Vista about Murray Springs water issue. A response has been received which doesn't say much, but implies it is a BLM problem. Mark is working on the issue.
 - d. Received \$500 grant from National Landscape System Foundation for display and advertising about SPRNCA/National Landscape Conservation System to support some of our events, and we need to that. We should send a representative to their Rendezvous this year. A display at Fairbank Day will show SPRNCA as part of NCLS and advertising for Fairbank Day.
 - e. Need to go through appropriate channels when making requests for assistance from BLM. Can't just "ask Ranger Bob." Requests should go through Mark and/or Chris
 - f. Need to establish a budget plan for if/when Dept of Transportation closes the Highway 90 bridge for an extended period while it is being replaced. A complete closure or even one lane of traffic may cause problems in income for San Pedro House

6. BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT REPORT (BLM).

- a. FSPR - Replacement of broken blind at FSH? Nothing has been done yet.
- b. Lots of interest in Contention. Any plans for an improved trail? This is part of the stimulus plan and will be done.
- c. Recent issue of gate openings. Appears to be taken care of. Fairbank site hosts are opening all gates.
- d. Status of site host for San Pedro House? This is ongoing, but still no progress. Update: The Site Host announcement has been posted on the FSPR website.
- e. BLM policy about carrying weapons on the SPRNCA and whether it will change as a result of the new legislation? Mark handed out the current policy, which is unchanged despite the new legislation since the SPRNCA is federal land.
- f. A two-day training is available for docents. It will stress interpretive technique reinforcement. Update: **Chris Long and Sandy Kunzer** are in contact with Denise Shultz of the National Park Service at Coronado Memorial to organize this.
- g. Sec. Salazar wants to visit and showcase Las Cienegas and the SPRNCA
- h. BLM is well into the stimulus package:
 - *Reed, Alex, Bob, and Heather are GPSing the trails. Will have the help of Youth Corps in trail work.
 - *Statement of Work for the trailheads is being put out
 - *Solar for SPH will probably be approved
 - *None of the proposed projects have been turned back. For all information we can go to: recovery.DOI.gov
 - *Vault toilets and new maps are being prepared
- i. A Mexican biologist has located six large colonies of beaver in Los Fresnos. Would like to talk to our wildlife biologist after the Wet/Dry Survey is complete.
- j. There was a question about getting lids on the open vaults on the railroad right-of-way. Wildlife have been falling in and starving. Mark will look into this.
- k. Also, is there progress on the Rails to Trails project? Would it help to get a letter from Congresswoman Giffords? Mark indicated that a letter would be a good idea. **Ron and Ted** agreed to look into this.

7. PROGRAM REPORTS.

- a. Docent Program
 - (1) Natural History Docent Program (Chris Long). Do we want to continue with two Natural History classes per year or change to one Natural History and one Cultural History? Trying to run a total of three classes per year will require additional volunteers. It was consensus to one of each per year: natural history in April and cultural history in the Fall/Winter.
 - (2) Cultural History Docent Program (Ron Serviss). Good attendance on Millville walk – 20 people. Seems to be a lot of interest in these historic sites. Also, had good response to idea of a monthly history walk on a weekday. Will coordinate with the Cultural History Docents to select the dates. The times will be the second Sunday of each month and a weekday (same trip). Update: Dates and times have been set for 2010 and sent to **Gary Noonan** for the calendar. Locations will be set later.
- b. Education Program (John Rose).
 - (1) \$650 for new stereoscopic microscope. **Kathryn Ojiero** is looking for a grant to cover this. Already has a good prospect from a “Best Buy” program. There has been another microscope found for less than the original estimate. The proposal needs an ethnic breakdown of the participants. The county schools breakdown should be suitable.
 - (2) Share cost of new skulls for bone box with Audubon approximately \$225 from FSPR. Audubon will purchase this and then ask us for half the cost. Will not be needed until later this summer or early fall.
 - (3) The “Youngest Friends of the San Pedro River” program will be resumed this Fall. Mike Foster and John Rose will administer the program

- c. Equestrian Program (Nancy Doolittle) – The process of rides free to members is working. We usually get about two new members at each ride.
- d. Maintenance Program --**Terri Metzger** is back and ready to work. There is an immediate need for trail maintenance at Fairbank, removal of brush pile at San Pedro House and trash removal along the river. She has a team working with her. Update: **Terri and Ranger Bob** have created a new area for the compost from the gardens.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS.

- a. Membership Committee (Vacant) -
- b. Education Committee (John Rose).
- c. Public Outreach (Ted Mouras)
 - (1) Fort Huachuca Public Access Channel. **Cat Adams and Pat McPhillips** are willing to do the DVD for the access channel; Ted will contact Romeo to set it up
 - (2) EAC project has a focus on sustainability. Will pursue the issue of water. The Huachuca 50 and Team Cochise participate in USPP to advocate for a water board.

9. OLD BUSINESS.

- a. Trail Guide Illustrated Booklet (Ted Mouras). Illustrations are complete, have a rough idea of the format and working on the text.
- b. **Ted Mouras** complete the colore xeriscape booklet. It will be on sale at SPH. The swale for the xeriscape will be built when the rainy season starts.
- b. 2010 Photo Calendar (Gary Noonan). Event dates are due by the end of the month
- c. Fairbank Reunion/Fairbank Day – 14 November 2009 – (BLM/Eddie Figueroa/ FSPR for refreshments/entertainment). Proposal ready for review. The proposal has smaller, monthly events over the Fall and Winter There will be possible fees. [See proposal attachment]
- d. Update on Point of Sales System (Dutch Nagle). In studying the manual for the program, it is clear we may need an additional scanner. The coding system will take some time.
- e. Phone/computer link at Fairbank? (Dutch Nagle and BLM) There is no progress, but there may not need to be an internal link, perhaps we can work with the electric company for service.
- f. The Huachuca Scout has published our first article.

10. NEW BUSINESS.

- a. Special arrangement with Wal-Mart for bird seed. (Dutch Nagle). **Dutch** has signed a contract with Wal-Mart to receive damaged bags for use at San Pedro House. It was suggested that we check with other stores for similar arrangements.
- b. Children’s activity Guide. **Lori Kovash** is working on a publication for children. It will include things for them to do/look for on the San Pedro House Trails. Update: Chris has the draft. It should encourage interest with the young children.
- c. Member’s Only Special Event.” What do we want to do this year? AND who will plan/organize it? Suggestions included “An Evening under the Stars” with local astronomers, a demo of black light ‘bugs,’ or a movie. **Chris** will e-mail members to find an organizer for this. Date would probably be in September.
- d. Linking the SPRNCA to the SV multi-use trail, discussed with Marie Hansen of the tourism council. (Ted Mouras) City biking trails starting at the Brown Canyon Trail may be able to Link to the Rails-to-Trails.
- e. Request from Eddie Figueroa for FSPR support on a “Ghosts of Fairbank” program with local radio stations KTAN/KWCD/K101. It is unclear from his letter what he actually has in mind; Chris will talk further with Eddie.
- f. Shall we take out an ad in Wings Over Willcox? The cost is \$89. Board approved this expense.

11. REVIEW 2009 FSPR ACTIVITY CALENDAR. Correction Fort Huachuca VIP tour is Thursday June 25
12. NEXT MEETING July 14th.
13. ADJOURN.