

Gold Country Trails Council
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
April 9, 2013
Memorial Park Annex Building
415 Central Avenue
Grass Valley, Ca 95945

The executive board meeting was called to order by President Helen Harvey at 7:07.

Members present included:

President: Helen Harvey

Vice President Melissa Ribley

Secretary: Karen Schwartz

Treasurer: Kathy Southgate

Board Members: Jeff Foltz, Don Soto, Vicki Testa

Members: Mary Johnson (Membership Chair), Robert Ribley

Absent:

Forest Service Liaison: Willie Brusin

Teri Personeni (Past President)

Helen requested approval of the March minutes. Secretary Karen Schwartz reported that no revisions were offered, and the minutes were approved.

Treasurer Kathy Southgate reported that the bank balance as of 3/31/13 was \$16, 342.30. She reported that no billing has been received for the Grange rental.

Old Business:

In the absence of Forest Service Liaison Willie Brusin, his report was not available. The board discussed various questions and concerns regarding the proposed improvements being considered for Skillman campground by Joe Chavez of the Tahoe National Forrest, especially those which significantly would limit trailer parking spaces if barriers are installed. Parking at Skillman would be limited to two rigs per camping spot for a total of 32 rigs in the campground. Additional rigs would need to be parked in a new parking area to be developed at the far end of the campground, or in a potentially new parking area before the entrance to the campground. Several members expressed concerns that this could make events such as the GCTC Poker Ride fundraiser and other large equestrian events financially unfeasible. Vice President Melissa Ribley presented a report on a comparable campground, Dru Barner in El Dorado County, where several large events are held annually and no parking barriers are used. It was agreed that after the GCTC Skillman campground work day on 5/22/13 board members will survey the parking situation and develop recommendations for alternative parking improvements, e.g., leveling existing campsites, using gravel to delineate parking spaces, etc., to be submitted to Joe Chavez. In June several members of the GCTC executive board will meet with Joe Chavez to discuss the proposed changes.

Melissa reported that David Higbee has agreed to spread the gravel presently at Lone Grave and to spread a new delivery of gravel at the Overlook. The cost for the gravel and a roller to spread it will be

\$1060.00. David Higbee's services will cost \$600. The board agreed unanimously to pay for the expenses.

Helen reported that a publicity chair and more phone tree volunteers are still needed.

New Business:

Membership Chair Mary Johnson proposed a Top Hand award to recognize members who have been outstanding volunteers, especially those who work on trails. The board approved Mary's proposal unanimously.

Helen proposed several additions to the GCTC Trail Etiquette Guidelines to address recommending safety helmets, using red ribbons to mark horses that kick, and banning stallions and ponying from day rides. Karen will send a draft of the proposed changes to Helen, who will ask Email Notifications Chair Jaede Maloslavich to send this to all members.

Karen asked if CalStar information is included in the packet of information provided for new members. Mary agreed to include it in the future. Information regarding CalStar will also be included in the May/June edition of the newsletter. Don Soto proposed that we provide members with a small laminated card with their identification information which they can carry when riding. He agreed to inform members about this at the May membership meeting.

Helen suggested we participate in the celebration of National Trails Day on 6/1/13 at Robinson's Plaza. After discussion, the board agreed to have a booth, and volunteers will be sought at the May meeting.

Helen noted that the update of the membership directory contains some errors. After discussion, the board agreed the directory will be corrected. Mary will proof read the membership directory and will send Helen the corrections. Helen will make the corrections to the current membership directory, and Vicki Testa will proof read the revised version of the membership directory, which will then be distributed to the membership.

Helen announced that the deadline for the May/June newsletter is 4/30/13. She reviewed upcoming GCTC events including the work day at Lone Grave on 4/21/13 and the day ride at Cronan Ranch on 5/5/13.

Helen asked if there were any announcements or questions. Don asked about the possibility of a crosswalk being installed across Highway 174 at Empire Mine. Mary and Helen suggested he talk with Mary Lundin, who tried to arrange this several years ago but CalTrans refused.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Schwartz, Secretary