

**Gold Country Trails Council
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
June 11, 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 7:02.

Members present included:

President: Helen Harvey

Secretary: Karen Schwartz

Treasurer: Kathy Southgate

Board Members: Jeff Foltz, Don Soto, Vicki Testa

Forest Service Liaison: Willie Brusin

Members: Mary Johnson (Membership Chair), Sue Brusin

Absent:

Vice President Melissa Ribley

Teri Personeni (Past President)

Helen requested approval of the May minutes. Secretary Karen Schwartz reported that a revised version of the May minutes has been issued to all board members, and the minutes were approved.

Treasurer Kathy Southgate reported that the bank balance as of 6/11/13 was \$14, 820.00. She stated that no billing has been received for the the food provided at the Skillman campground work day. She also reported that no billing has been received for the Grange rental. Helen volunteered to contact Sidney Hunt to request a billing.

Board member Jeff Foltz asked about expenses associated with the upcoming barbecue at the board meeting in August. Board members will bring salads or desserts and Jeff will supply the meat entree.

Old Business:

Forest Service Liaison Willie Brusin distributed his report dated 6/2013, including the following items:

Pioneer Trail: The TNF botanist has completed the on-site survey of the wild flowers on the Pioneer Trail relocation area but has not submitted her report. Once the report is submitted, a 30-day period is allowed for public comment before the trail relocation can proceed.

Skillman Campground: Willie reported that Joe Chavez new title is TNF Trails and Recreation Specialist and that Carlos Gonzales is now our contact person for Skillman. The changes proposed for the campground have now been reduced to fire rings and a new vault toilet, probably due to ongoing budget problems. At the May 22nd work day several GCTC board members surveyed the campground to prepare recommendations for TNF representatives on proposed changes, including parking barriers, and considered developing a GCTC proposal. Willie proposed that GCTC develop and propose a master plan for Skillman to be presented during an orientation with Carlos in August or September. In response, board members agreed that a proposal be developed, including a site map, to be presented to Carlos Gonzales in August or September. A site map is needed, and Karen agreed to contact member Jaime Canon, who is experienced in architectural drafting, as to what might be involved. The board voted unanimously to support this proposal with a letter detailing our recommendations and to ask Vice President Melissa Ribley to spearhead this effort.

Upper Pioneer Trail: Willie and Sue recently rode the trail and determined that the trail needs brushing across from the Overlook Vista area. Overgrowth is increasing near the Omega rest stop, and an extra work day may need to be scheduled to remove it.

Other: Board member Don Soto suggested that cyclists carry some sort of sound device to alert horses. Member Sue Brusin recommended that Don contact BONC regarding this idea.

Old Business:

Helen reported that a publicity chair is still needed. Membership Chair Mary Johnson agreed to review members' applications for those who might be interested.

Helen reported that she intends to produce a pdf. format of the membership directory information to be sent to members via email. Kathy reported that she has not received a billing for printing the 2013 membership directory.

Helen asked if the board was satisfied with the GCTC Trail Etiquette Guide included in the GCTC Policies and Procedures manual. The Guide was unanimously approved for distribution to members. It was noted that no dogs or ponying of horses will be permitted at the Poker Ride.

New Business:

Helen reported that food contributions are needed for the Poker Ride and will be coordinated by member Sue Hammontre.

Karen reported that she and member Merrill Kagan-Weston attended an equestrian tour of Royal Gorge, 3000 acres recently acquired by the Truckee-Donner Land Trust. The trails there are spectacular and Karen proposed that the board schedule a day ride there, which she will arrange if there is sufficient interest. The Trust is seeking input from potential recreational users via an outreach survey at royalgorgeoutreach.org., and equestrians should be encouraged to complete the survey.

The Top Hand award, proposed previously by Mary to recognize members who have been outstanding volunteers, especially those who work on trails, was discussed in detail. Nominations will be sent to Nominating Committee Chair Laura Duncan, and the Nominating committee will decide on the annual winner. The winner's name will be added to an engraved plaque to be presented during the November membership meeting.

Helen asked if there were any announcements or questions. Don asked about donating picnic tables for Empire Mine. He agreed to research the costs involved.

Mary Johnson reported that she and several other members met with Jace Reed and Wayne McCarter at Little Lazier to review what work would be addressed during the GCTC work day there scheduled for the weekend of 6/28/13 through 6/30/13. She noted that a number of projects need attention including: limbing of trees in the area where rigs are parked, raking fire rings, scraping and painting picnic tables, removing bumps and washouts in the access road, and removing at least 6 trees from the PCT connector trail. Mary will send photos of the trees to Willie, as well as a huge tree which has fallen across the PCT. A water bar may also be needed on the PCT connector trail.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Schwartz, Secretary