

DRAFT 2

General Membership Meeting Minutes
GOLD COUNTRY TRAILS COUNCIL, INC.

Tuesday, September 14, 2021, 7 PM

Golden Empire Grange

11363 Grange Lane, Grass Valley, CA

Officers:

President: Bernie Molloy
Vice President: Jamie Canon
Secretary: Andi Duncan
Treasurer: Cathy Scott - Absent
Past President: Helen Harvey - Absent

Board Members:

Helen Crawford
Karen Hayden

Administrative Members:

Mary Johnson, Forest Svc Liaison
Cathy Chase, Membership Chair
Laura Duncan

A. Call to Order and Welcome

Meeting was called to order by President Bernie Molloy at 7:01 p.m.

B. Changes or additions to agenda - Add Change of Membership Year

C. Welcome to new members - Donna McMillan

D. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

March 10, 2020 General Meeting minutes – Jamie Canon motioned to approve and Karen Hayden seconded. Motion passed.

E. Approval of Treasurer's Report

Cathy Scott was absent but asked Bernie Molloy to report on this month's financial status. Bernie reported that our current checkbook balance as of September 14, 2021 is \$39,141.41 which includes \$10,571 in reserves. The reserves include \$3,571.17 for Pines to Mines, \$5,000 for a new equipment trailer, and \$2,000 for printing two trail maps for the GCTC Board at Lone Grave and Harmony Market. Revenue last year as of 8/31/21 was \$15,242 which is a 14% increase over previous year. Membership Dues last year were \$9,218.64 which is a 31% increase over previous year. Donations last year were \$1,952 about the same as the previous year. Expenses including projects/maintenance last year were \$13,138.33 which is a 71% increase over previous year. Trail and Campground Maintenance Projects last year were \$8,061 (the \$8,061 is

part of the \$13,138.33) which was more than three times what we spent the previous year. Andi Duncan motioned and Jamie Canon seconded the motion to approve the treasurer's report. The motion passed. A full accounting is attached.

F. Forest Service Report

Mary Johnson reported that there has been little activity due to the temporary Forest Service Closure. The August meeting with the Forest Service regarding selected trail closures at Lone Grave did not occur. It may happen next week. Willie and Sue Brusin and Mary Johnson hiked the trails so they have a lot of ideas and suggestions. For members unfamiliar with the selected trail closures, Mary Johnson explained the 2015 project to members. For full details, refer to the August 2021 Board Meeting minutes.

G. Old Business

1. **Pines to Mines E-bike Update** - Laura Duncan reported that the Nevada County Board of Supervisor has approved the \$100,000 for the Environmental Study excluding E-bikes from the study. The Request for Proposal (RFP) is out. Interested parties have 30 days to get back to the Board of Supervisors (BOS). Which means it may be on the November or December calendar. Laura Duncan suspects the Forest Service still wants to allow E-bikes on the trail. GCTC needs to remain vigilant.

It was noted that the Tahoe National Forest (TNF) website touts e-bikes but does not appear to include equestrians on the website. Karen Hayden made a motion for the President, Bernie Molloy, to send a letter signed by all Board Members, asking them to include equestrians and ask the TNF to include trail etiquette. The motion was seconded by Helen Crawford. The motion passed.

2. **Forest Closures** - Mary Johnson reported that the Tahoe National Forest (TNF) will be closed until September 17.

H. New Business

1. **Upcoming Work Days and Calendar Changes** - Mary Johnson hopes the TNF will be open on October 9 for United Trails Day. We have missed two work days due to the forest closure.
2. **Signage at Lone Grave** - Andi Duncan presented two 11 x 14 posters "What a Horse Sees" as signs which could be placed on the GCTC Trailhead board. These posters were created by an Idaho Backcountry Horseman and Andi saw them at a trailhead in the Stanislaus National Forest. Mary Johnson said she would ask the Forest Service if we could put them up. If that isn't possible then perhaps we could put them up at the Market.
3. **Royal Gorge Ride** - According to Jamie Canon, the ride may or may not happen. It depends if the Forest Service Closure ends on September 17.

4. **November Thanksgiving Potluck Update** -. Bernie Molloy reported that the facility has been booked and Debbie Molloy is lined up to do the food service but we are waiting for Nevada County to determine inside meeting restrictions and it is too soon to know.
5. **Trailforks Web page** (should we join) - Cathy Scott was absent but asked Bernie Molloy to present the group with information.

Trailforks was started about 10 years ago for mountain bicycle activity. It shows trail segments by activity. In 2021 Outside Magazine acquired Pinkbikes and Trailforks. Trailforks has expanded to include other types of outdoor sports activities (road biking, trail running, skiing, swimming, etc). Participants are tracking mileage, time speed, according to specific Track Segments. Self reporting or data is transferred from GPS tracking devices such as Garmin, Strava or Smart Phones. It creates a lot of data.

Horse Activities and hiking aren't excluded from Trailforks, but tend to be under reported and under represented. If you don't use Trailforks, it is not recorded in Trailforks. We tend not to think of our activities as competitive with other trail riders or hikers.

Statistics on activity type, location (trails) and use is available for decision makers such as the Tahoe National Forest to review and use.

Data that appears in Trailforks is moderated (gatekeeper) by Trail Associations such as BONC and Trailforks staff. Authorized use (allowed activities) on several local trail segments was erroneously showing No Horses allowed, and in many cases, e-bikes allowed. BONC is a registered moderator for local trails.

GCTC can register with Trailforks so we can moderate data on local trails at no cost to GCTC.

Cathy Scott is asking members to look at Trailforks in the next week and give her feedback. She asked for a show of hands of current users. Answer zero. She asked how many in attendance don't use Trailforks. Answer 21.

Karen Hayden made a motion that the GCTC officially join Trailforks and that Cathy Scott be the moderator for our group and will research and report to the Club. Helen McDermott Crawford seconded the motion. The motion passed.

6. **Board Vacancies and Election** - Laura Duncan stated that there are several vacancies on the Board. Bernie Molloy has served his two year maximum term. Greg Sherr, General Board Member, resigned due to other commitments. Andi Duncan will end her term as secretary. If you or anyone you know is interested, please let Laura Duncan know.

7. **Change of Membership Year** - Cathy Chase, Membership Chair, made a motion to change the Membership Year from a fiscal one (September to August) to a calendar year (January to December). The reason being that it is easier to track membership with less duplication of paperwork, etc. All existing memberships would continue through December 2021. Members who renewed their membership dues in August of this year, their membership will be good until December 2022. Assuming there is a Poker Ride in 2022, GCTC will determine at that time how to handle new members. Willie Brusin seconded the motion. All approved and the motion passed.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Submitted by Andi Duncan, Secretary