

Gold Country Trails Council
Minutes of the General Meeting
May 14, 2013
Golden Empire Grange
11363 Grange Court, Grass Valley

The general membership meeting was called to order by President Helen Harvey at 7:05.

Members present included:

President Helen Harvey

Vice President: Melissa Ribley

Treasurer: Kathie Southgate

Secretary: Karen Schwartz

Board Members: Jeff Foltz, Don Soto, Vicki Testa

Members: Willie Brusin (Forest Service Liaison), Mary Johnson (Membership Chair), Teri Personeni (Past President)

President Helen Harvey welcomed visitors and new members and asked them to stand and introduce themselves.

Helen asked about approval of the April minutes. Secretary Karen Schwartz responded that the minutes of the board meeting had been distributed to the board and for publication in the GCTC newsletter.

Helen asked Treasurer Kathy Southgate to report on GCTC finances. Kathy provided a detailed report dated 5/14/13 and stated that the current working balance is \$16,342.30. She also reviewed upcoming expenditures.

Old Business:

Forest Service Liaison Willie Brusin reviewed his report dated 5/14/2013, including the following items:

Lone Grave: The April 21st trail work day was attended by 14 members who refurbished several trails and also cut trees. On another day Willie and David Higbee smoothed the gravel at the Gold Country Equestrian trailhead and smoothed the road. They also worked on the Overlook Equestrian trailhead where gravel was added and smoothed.

Packsaddle Campground: The Pacific Crest Trail will be realigned near the Packsaddle campground to eliminate conflicts between hikers, bikers, and equestrians on a 4-mile stretch of trail. The large rocks placed at the campground will be removed from the area designated for equestrian use. We may need to submit a letter to support Option A which addresses the needs of equestrians.

Pioneer Trail: A botanist has completed the survey the wildflowers and submitted the NEPA report. A 30-day period is allowed for public comment, before the trail relocation can proceed.

Skillman Campground: Willie and Vice President Melissa Ribley reported that the campground is now open with a concessionaire on site. Willie reviewed the changes expected to take shape over the next

few years, include reconfiguring the 16 individual campsites to protect large trees, eliminating the \$100.00 group camp area, adding three new single pit toilets, sinking a new well to provide potable water, installing high lines rather than more corrals, and improving manure control. Changes in the campsites may limit the Poker Ride to 60 trailers. The timeline for these improvements is projected to be two to three years. At the May 22nd work day several GCTC board members will survey the campground to prepare recommendations for Joe Chavez on these changes.

Upper Pioneer Trail: Willie and Sue will ride the trail to determine if the part of the trail which extends past Langs Crossing needs trail work.

Other: Helen reported that there is a possibility that the responsibility for recreational trails will be shifted to the highway department. Member Harry Wyeth volunteered to investigate the situation and report back at a future meeting.

Helen announced that a revised version of the membership phone book was available and asked members to take one with them.

Helen asked Linda Lanzoni to provide an update on the preparations for the annual fundraiser Poker Ride scheduled for July 6th. She reported that she currently has not received approval for the operating plan and has had no response from the camp host. Linda reviewed a variety of positions for which volunteers are needed, especially food coordinator. This is especially important as we ran short of food last year. Sue Hammontre volunteered to act as food coordinator. Merrill Kagan-Weston is coordinating the purchase and preparation of the BBZ meat. Linda reported that Past President Teri Personeni is coordinating the donation of prizes and raffle items, etc., but needs more helpers. Members were encouraged to contact Linda directly to volunteer.

New Business:

Helen asked members to report on the recent day ride at Cronin Ranch. Merrill said 13 riders enjoyed the ride on a beautiful day.

Helen asked for comments on the updated Trail Etiquette Guidelines recently distributed to all members. No comments were offered.

Karen announced that GCTC volunteers will man the Tevis Deadwood vet check again this year and asked that members who would like to volunteer contact her, with preference given to those who have volunteered previously.

Merrill reported that the combined Tevis Fun Ride and Educational Ride will be held from Friday, May 31st to Sunday, June 2nd. She asked members who would like to volunteer to work at the vet check sign up with her.

Melissa reported that Judy Suter of the Western States Trail Safety Alliance is leading an effort to restrict use of the historic trail to hikers and equestrians. Email Notifications chair Jaede Maloslavich stated that closing this trail to bicycles would reduce the number of area trails available to cyclists by only two percent. Helen will write a letter in support of this change.

Helen reviewed in detail the work days and rides scheduled on the calendar of GCTC events through July.

Helen asked for any questions or announcements.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 for refreshments, followed by a presentation by Brian Bisinet on the geologic and mining history of the Smartsville and Camptonville area.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Schwartz, Secretary