

Gold Country Trails Council
Minutes of the General Meeting
November 8, 2013
Golden Empire Grange
11363 Grange Court, Grass Valley

The general membership meeting was called to order by President Helen Harvey at 8:10, following the GCTC Thanksgiving Feast.

Members present included:

President: Helen Harvey

Vice President: Melissa Ribley

Treasurer: Kathie Southgate

Secretary: Karen Schwartz

Board Members: Don Soto, Vicki Testa

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

Absent: Board Member: Jeff Foltz

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

Helen inquired about approval of the minutes of the October executive board meeting. Secretary Karen Schwartz confirmed that the minutes of the board meeting had been distributed to the board members and for publication in the GCTC newsletter. Helen inquired about correspondence received, and Mary Johnson replied that she would read the correspondence later in the meeting.

Helen asked Treasurer Kathy Southgate to report on GCTC finances. Kathy provided a detailed report dated 10/31/13 and stated that the current working balance is \$19,586.55. She also reported that an estimated \$11,000 has been raised to repair damage to the Western States Trail from the American fire. Tests are being conducted to determine if the metal structure of the Swinging Bridge must be replaced.

Old Business:

Forest Service Liaison Willie Brusin summarized his report dated 11/2013, including the following items:

Lone Grave: A large tree which had fallen across a trail has been removed with the use of the recently acquired heavy duty chain saw.

Jet Lowe has applied for a Tahoe National Forrest grant to place a trailhead sign at Five Mile House.

Pioneer Trail: Construction on the proposed re-route of the section of the trail near the Washington Overlook has now been approved to begin next Spring, 2014.

Last month BONC members constructed a short trail above the Halleujah Trail to connect with the Towle Mill Trail on Burlington Road.

Skillman: A survey of the Skillman campground has been completed. Melissa and Robert Ribley will chair a committee tasked with completing a plan for the campground which will permit parking enough truck and trailer rigs to meet the needs of future participants in the GCTC fundraiser Poker Ride and the AERC Wild West endurance ride. It was noted that many rigs are now larger than in the past and campgrounds need to provide accommodations for such rigs.

GCTC member Irv Mazur has agreed to chair coordination of GCTC trail work days. He is also leading efforts to install adequate Skillman signage and to update Skillman trail maps, including numbers on trail signage posts that will correspond to numbers on the trail maps. He is also assisting Willie with Forrest Service Liaison efforts.

Other: The purchase of a heavy duty brush cutting machine is still in process.

New Business:

Helen reminded members who are renewing to check the new box on their application if nothing has changed.

Helen announced that Lynne Sullivan is taking over as telephone tree chair. Phyllis Shopbell is joining the phone tree committee.

Helen thanked Maryann Jorgenson, Krista Ericson and Laura Duncan for agreeing to take over the responsibility for bringing refreshments at general meetings.

Helen encouraged members to purchase raffle tickets for two weeks at Cabo San Lucas, donated by GCTC member Lynne Sullivan, before the drawing to be held at the end of the meeting

Helen asked Mary Johnson to read a letter from LaVonne Young of the PMS Posse, a group of horsewomen from Lockeford who camped at Skillman campground in September. Sue Brusin, Ann Rubenstein, and Penny Martin acted as their trail guides. GCTC received a donation of \$200.00 in appreciation.

Helen reviewed the 2013 List of Accomplishments achieved by GCTC's membership over the past year.

Helen announced the new Top Hand Award, and Jaede Maloslavich described the process by which the member was chosen who has made the greatest contributions to achieving the GCTC mission. Helen announced that the first winner is Sue Brusin and presented her with a handsome trophy.

Helen announced the slate of 2014 officers and board members. The following slate was approved by unanimous vote: President: Karen Schwartz; Vice President: Melissa Ribley; Treasurer: Kathy Southgate; Secretary: Karen Wyeth; Board Members: Rafe Little, Don Soto, Vicki Testa. The board was sworn in by Robert Ribley.

Melissa thanked Helen for her many efforts on behalf of GCTC's membership and mission and she presented Helen with an award plaque.

Jaede thanked Helen for all her efforts on behalf of providing public access to the Emigrant Trail.

Helen pulled two raffle tickets from the drum tumbler and announced the lucky raffle winners of the two weeks at Cabo San Lucas: Jaede Miloslavich and Nikki Julian-Vasquez.

Helen asked for any questions or announcements.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Schwartz, Secretary