

MINUTES OF TRACKS GENERAL MEETING September 11, 2021,

Held at Woodland Lake Park in Pinetop, AZ 85935

Meeting was called to order at 8:20 AM by Nick Lund. There were approximately 36 people in attendance.

Guests present: Austin Gevers and Laura Akers from Forest Service and Joya Szalenski, Recreation Manager of Lakeside Forest Service. Also present, new members Bill and Marilyn Close and past returning members Terri and Barbara.

Minutes of the last General Meeting of August 14, 2021, were reviewed. Lynn Krigbaum made a motion to accept the minutes as read, seconded by John Vuolo, and approved by all members present.

Announcements:

1. Nick told members that a lightning strike at Los Burros caused a fire that was left to burn itself out as it was during the rainy season. This resulted in enormous erosion, which is beyond repair and will require a re-route and perhaps use of mechanical equipment. Joya hopes the Conservation Core crew can come here in October to accomplish the work. This area will not be part of the Tour of White Mountains bike route. The route has been changed and re-mapped.
2. Nick also spoke of the Buena Vista Trail that has been overrun by ATV's, resulting in 90% double track. Changes are needed. The plan is to have ATVs on the double track on the outside loop and have the hikers' trail on a single track within the double loop. Some of the secret or maverick trails may be incorporated into the trail.
3. Nick mentioned that the Outdoors S W Publication referred to those secret trails, which are unauthorized at this time. Nick had *White Mountain Independent* publish an article in reference to this situation. TRACKS does not promote this type of activity. Avoidance of ATVs may have been one of the reasons that these maverick trails were developed.
4. Tour of White Mountains Bike Race: The event takes place on October 2nd. The Volunteer Dinner and distribution of T-shirts and instructions will take place on September 30th at 4 PM, in order to ease the amount of activity on October 1st, which is where Riders register, etc. Volunteers should carry proof of vaccination record.
5. *Take a Hike*: The recent publication includes other hiking areas in Payson and Alpine. It sells for \$5.00 each. Kudos were given to Kathryn Melsted for her tireless work in gathering accurate information before publication.
6. The Pinetop-Lakeside Fall Festival is September 25th from 10 AM to 12 noon. Arlene would like all those who volunteered to help with TRACKS entry to meet at the Nature Center at 12 noon, September 21st, to help with TRACKS presentation in the Parade, and also to meet at 8:30 AM on Malpais prior to the Parade. Carpooling is suggested, to avoid the 2-mile walk back from Blue Ridge High School. The Theme of the Parade is "Living Your Dream."

7. Nick spoke to members of future plans to place bike gates, or ramps that would be placed next to existing gates to avoid having to open gates. They would only be for hikers and bike riders. Nick said there would be 41 gates needed, so this is a long-term project. Nick has devised an installation plan for the Forest Service and also is writing a grant application to help with finances.
8. The End of Season Potluck was announced by Kay. Many hikers return to the Valley the first part of October, thus the reason to call it end of season. First, there will be a Hike from Woodland Lake Park to Nature Center, from 8:45 AM to 11 AM. Next, a potluck at Ramada #2 for the gathering. Bring your own Beverage.
9. The White Mountain Nature Center hosts a fund raiser dinner September 18th. It will have a Western theme and serve a Barbeque dinner for \$30.00 each. Tickets are available at the Nature Center. A cake auction is included. Jim mentioned that a few surprises are scheduled at the dinner.
10. It was announced that a 9/11 Memorial Service at Jack Barker Park takes place today, September 11th, at 2 PM. Flags have been placed for each individual who perished on that day.
11. Also scheduled for today is a honey extraction at the Nature Center at 10 AM.
12. Liz Jernigan spoke of upcoming Audobon Meeting on October 6th at the Town Hall and Barb Davis will present her recent Nature film at 6:30 PM.

No activities are planned except for Town events.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 AM. The next General Meeting will be at Darbi's on Saturday, October 9, 2021, at 8 AM.

Submitted by Kay Alderton, Secretary/Board Member