

**MINUTES OF TRACKS GENERAL MEETING June 4, 2022,
at Woodland Lake Park in Pinetop, AZ 85935**

1. Meeting was called to order by Nick Lund at 8:10 AM. He welcomed everyone and announced that today is National Trails Day.
2. There were 34 people in attendance. New members were: Dorey Lynch, Jack Pence, Renada Stark, and Barbara Cain. Nick told the members that TRACKS membership has grown to 600 plus and has different groups: hiking, biking, cross-country skiing, trail crew, equestrian, and even kayaking.
3. Nick gave Kudos to the different volunteers that make TRACKS an efficient working organization. He called for those present who served on the Board, as trail crew, as trail stewards, and as trail head adopters. Cathy Purvis also gave Kudos to Lynn Krigbaum, who faithfully stationed her table at Woodland Lake Park on a regular basis to encourage donations for S.O.P. (Save Our Park) and helped with a search for 1.6 million dollars through the Salters to enable the town of Pinetop-Lakeside to purchase the Park. Next to be purchased is the Walnut Creek Corridor. The Town will fund the appraisal needed. This will connect that to the Nature Center and Hitching Post Trail. A mountain bike trail could also be established. So, more funding is needed.
4. Lynn Krigbaum needs volunteers for Show Low Days on June 11th to monitor TRACKS table. The Nature Center and Audubon and Save Our Park will be there. Lynn passed a sign-up sheet around. Afternoon hours are available for volunteers.
5. Nick passed out "Take a Hike" booklets. They are free to TRACKS members. Cathy Purvis gave Kudos to Kathryn Melsted for her hours of work and mileage for the printing of the hikes.
6. Nick also passed out laminated cards that have phone numbers to call if you encounter problems while hiking the forest that will help avoid conflicts. Lynn suggested to also inform Sherriff if you find cattle on the wrong side of the fences.
7. Nick told the Members of the history of TRACKS and how we worked with the Town at first, but then as we enlarged we became incorporated and a 501c3 organization.
8. Minutes of previous meeting were reviewed and approved.
9. Nick spoke of future work on Blue Ridge that will result in a shortcut. We have a Navajo County grant to finance the necessary equipment to build it. The best route has been established; an east-to-west route that comes out near Blue Ridge #2 Trailhead and also vistas on the upper sections.
10. Nick announced that a grant from the Arizona State Parks will finance bike gates (or ramps). Nick described the construction. There are 43 gates. Still needs approval from Forest Service. The first to be installed would be the gates on the Tour of the White Mountains Bike Race in October.
11. Nick spoke of the decision made for hikers with dogs. They will be allowed if on leashes and stay at the back of the group.
12. Rosemary Huylebroeck announced that she is leaving the White Mountains after 41 years and 14 years with TRACKS. She is moving to California.

13. Jim Snitzer told the Members that Simon, the baby Asian Eagle-owl is growing rapidly at the Nature Center. He also announced a kayak-potluck at his place on June 18th. Time 2-8 PM.
14. Cathy Purvis had a supply of the combined ATV/hiking trail maps, which she passed out.
15. Joya Szalwinski, the Forest Service Recreation Staff Officer, was also present. She spoke of the use of anything in forests does impact the Program "Leave No Trace" started in the 70's and involves 7 principles. Joya also reiterated the rule for dogs being constrained while on trails, and the reasons involve both dog and people safety. Additionally, Joya led Members out in the open for an exercise regarding problems that can bother hikers and explained reasons why they are bothersome.

The next General Meeting will be on Saturday, July 9, 2022, at 8 AM, at Woodland Lake Park at Ramada #2. This is a potluck breakfast.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 AM.

Submitted by Kay Alderton, Secretary/Board Member