

Minutes of TRACKS General Meeting August 13, 2022 at Woodland Lake Park Ramada #2

- 1) Meeting called to order by Nick Lund at 8:20 AM.
- 2) New members present were Ken and Nancy Diodowizz(sp. ?) who are active in WMOTA  
16 members in attendance
- 3) Minutes of previous General meeting review. Motion to accept made by Jerry Good, seconded by Ken. All in favor of approval.
- 4) Announcements: A) Nick spoke of recent passing of Sherrill Sigmen. She will be added to the Memorial Kiosk at the Nature Center with a tree and plaque.  
B) Nick told members to take any of the posters available at the meeting of graphic scenic designs produced by the AZ Dept of Tourism. There were also maps of combination hiking/ATV available and state stickers.  
C) Forest Service has approved of the placement of 43 ramp gates. Nick described the ramps that will be next to an existing gate and will be used by bikers and hikers. So the existing gate will remain closed and no worry about cattle going through if someone forgot to close it. The Federal Grant through Navajo County was \$65,000 and TRACKS match is \$25,000. Once SHPO and State Parks approve, installation can proceed. The first gates in line will be 3 on Country Club. A contractor is already lined up for the installation who has developed a system that is easier and still secure, using a type of screw for anchors.  
D) Blue Ridge Shortcut: Blue Ridge has already been recognized as a National Recreation Trail of a 9.4 mile loop. There has been a need to have a shortcut. Nick described the process involved in building this. The funding is there through a grant and a developer is lined up for the initial work using heavy duty equipment. It will follow contours, provide vistas and will be 5 miles. A grant of \$45,000 pays the contractor. Trail crew will do the final grooming. Forest Service still needs to approve and do the NEPA.  
E) Buena Vista Trail has been over run with ATVs – only 5% left of single track. A new route is proposed and will incorporate the “Secret Trails” such as the Bone Trail. A “Save Buena Vista Foundation is being formed. Jason Moore has produced a Bike Jersey of a skeleton on a mountain bike to be purchased. Forest Service has always stated that Buena Vista is designated as a non-motorized trail.  
F) Nick wants to have a mountain bike course for races, etc. Nick has met with representatives to map out a course in our area which could include Mountain Meadows, which would need an overflow parking area. Another possibility would be East of Fool Hollow for a 5 mile inner course and 8 mile outer. Would connect to a part of the White Mountain Trail System. The trail head would be close to Fool Hollow. NEPA needs to be done. Show Low said they would fund that cost.  
G) Tour of the White Mountains still needs volunteers for the race which is 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of October. They expect 1500 riders. Nate is the person to contact. 520-490-8643. (157)  
H) UTHG hikers will have their end of the year potluck. Tuesday Trekkers are also invited. This will be at Woodland Lake Park at Ramada #2 after the Wednesday hike September 28<sup>th</sup>. Potluck is at 11AM to 2PM. BYOB. Napkins, plates, and utensils provided.  
I) Rick Olsen spoke of various areas on our trails where you can find petrified wood. There is a gem show this coming week in Alpine Friday/Saturday, August 19/20, 9AM to 3PM. Rick has given demos on geology for 10 years.  
J) Arlene spoke of the Fall Festival parades’ theme to be “Over the Mountains and through the Woods.” Need ideas for TRACKS float.

The next General meeting will be September 10<sup>th</sup> at Woodland Lake Park but at the smaller ramada near the restrooms at 8AM Potluck but bring chairs.

Meeting adjourned at 9AM.

Submitted by Kay Alderton, Secretary/ Board Member