

Minutes of TRACKS General Meeting at Woodland Lake Park Sept. 10, 2022

- 1) Meeting called to order at 8:15 AM by Nick Lund. There were 37 members in attendance.
- 2) Minutes of previous General meeting were distributed and reviewed. Motion by Ann Howard to approve, seconded by Arlene Nelson. All approved.
- 3) Announcements:
 - a) John Vuolo was recognized for his contributions to TRACKS over past years. Presented with a wooden carved plaque. John spoke highly of TRACKS and the community. He will continue to be an advocate for TRACKS.
 - b) Nick announced TRACKS newest Board Member, Nate Kear. Nate is the coordinator for the Tour of the White Mountains for several years.
 - c) Nick spoke of the kiosk behind the Nature Center that holds the plaques of deceased TRACKS members that have made many lasting contributions to the organization. He spoke of the latest addition of Sherrill Sigman who used to work on trails, was newsletter editor and for the past few years has transferred handwritten minutes to hard copies so she could stay “in touch.” A cottonwood tree was planted in her memory.
 - d) Nick announced that the grant for the ramp gates has been finalized after much “Red tape” which included State Historical Preservation. Nick displayed photos of a finished gate and said there will be 43 gates in all and both hikers and bikers can use them. They will be too narrow for ATVs. The adjoining gate will remain closed so livestock cannot escape. TRACKS pre-pays for the gates and AZ State Parks reimburses TRACKS. The plan is to concentrate initially on gates involved in the Tour White Mtns. Forest Service will inspect the installation. Total cost \$59,000. This will not be implemented in time for this year’s event.
 - e) Cathy spoke to members re: Fall Festival parade and Artisan’s Festival. There will be a booth at Charlie Clark’s Orchard Sept. 24-25. TRACKS is joining with Audubon and Nature Center. Volunteers are welcome to relieve the TRACKS members. Times are Sat. 9AM to 5PM and Sunday 9AM to 2PM.
 - f) Arlene would like volunteers to “dress up” the Trails Trailer and members for the Fall Festival parade on Sept. 24th. Staging at 9AM on Mariposa and parade starts at 10 AM. Meet at Nature Center Sept. 20th at noon to help decorate with theme of “Over the Mountains and through the Woods.” Also leave some vehicles at Blue Ridge School to avoid walking back to staging area.
 - g) Nick reminded members of the “End of the Season” potluck at Woodland Lake Park at Ramada #2. Tuesday and Wednesday hikers as well as the trail crew are invited. Meet at 9AM for a hike. Potluck from 11AM to 2PM.
 - h) Nick mentioned that he made a presentation to PTLIS Town Council 8/18 re: TRACKS and will repeat at Show Low Town Council on 9/20. Cathy displayed the newspaper front page of Nick receiving an award recognizing his efforts in developing TRACKS into a huge non-profit organization.
 - I) Nick mentioned a 50 mile Endurance Horseback Ride on Sept. 16th and will use some of our trails. They will need to be mindful of trail conditions. Lorna McNeil Cox stated that it could be canceled if it is too wet.

j) Nick mentioned that our trail crew will no longer work on Ice Cave due to constant damage from a nearby stable and other independent riders.

k) Lorna McNeil Cox gave a presentation that named several species of wildlife in our area that have played a role in maintaining a balance of our ecosystem and also some species that no longer live here.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10AM. Next General Meeting will be at Darbi's at 8AM on October 8th.

Submitted by Kay Alderton, Sec'y/ Board Member