

## **Minutes of TRACKS General meeting at Ramada 5, Woodland Lake Park, Pinetop, AZ July 8, 2023**

Meeting called to order by Nick Lund at 8:30AM.

1. New Members Raylene and Paul Patrick and Ann Mihalek. Approximately 24 members in attendance. Nick introduced all TRACKS Board members present and our Trail Boss, Jerry Good. Nick announced that membership over the years has increased from 150 to 650. He lauded the popularity and reputation of TRACKS which is known statewide.
2. Previous General meeting minutes were reviewed. Motion by Jerry Good and seconded by Lynn Krigbaum. All in favor of approval.
3. Announcements:
  - a) There will be a meeting at Show Low City Park on July 22<sup>nd</sup> 10AM to 1PM. TRACKS members are encouraged to attend. This meeting is sponsored by EATC (Eastern Arizona Trail Collaborative) to establish a 5 year plan for future trails. Other organizations invited are WMOTA, The Alpine Trail as well as TRACKS.
  - b) Ramp gates: Nick told members that 19 gates have been installed up to date. The 8 remaining gates will be installed by the end of August. Nick explained the advantage of the gates. Adaptive Sports for handicapped can also take advantage of these gates.
  - c) Cathy Purvis initiated the effort to gather the original and old time members to be present at the August 12<sup>th</sup> General meeting at Woodland Lake Park Ramada #2 at 8AM. TRACKS wishes to recognize their dedication to TRACKS and that they started building the original trails and maintaining them since the Forest Service is not able to do the maintenance.
  - d) Nick also told members that Josh Miller, Ranger of the USFS Lakeside District, will also have a short presentation at the 8/12 meeting.
  - e) End of season potluck: scheduled for September 27 at 11 AM at WLP Ramada #2. Tuesday and Wednesday hikers as well as the Trail Crew and the Bike group and spouses are invited. There will be a hike at 9AM prior to the Potluck.
  - f) Lynn announced the Cowboy Breakfast at the White Mountain Nature Center on July 15<sup>th</sup> which is a fundraiser by the Back Country Horsemen of the White Mountains. The breakfast will be from 8AM to 10:30 AM. There are 2 future events scheduled for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays of August and September. Mreen Helm is in charge. She wants to establish a relationship with TRACKS as well.
  - g) There will be a Fire Wise Expo also on July 15<sup>th</sup> 9:30 to 3:30 at Blue Ridge Elementary School off Porter Mtn. Road. A volunteer sign-up sheet was circulated for the TRACKS table. Navajo County received a federal grant to help private citizens make their property fire wise. If amendments are necessary, \$1000 can be reimbursed.
  - h) A follow up of Leave No Trace: Nick and Lynn spoke of how LNT National Organization contacted Nick to have TRACKS be highlighted for 2023. Subaru sponsored the event held June 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. National Trails Day was incorporated into the activities June 3<sup>rd</sup>. TRACKS presented a course in trail building. The 7 Principles of LNT were presented and they will be highlighted in future newsletters.
    - a. Joan Patrick spoke of her coordinating duties for the Trailhead Adopters. She told of people removing the large, laminated maps from the kiosks. Ron Miller coordinates trail stewards, who only report 2 times per year. Trailhead Adopters must go quite often — even weekly or bi-weekly. Stewards report damage, i.e., downed trees, trash dumps, or erosion of the trail. Nick displayed the wallet-sized laminated cards that

have the phone number to report to Forest Service if they see poaching or dumping on the trails. You are not to approach the offenders.

- i) Peggy Lund spoke of the daily Raptor training at the Nature Center at 3PM.
- j) Jim Snitzer spoke of the response to the training. At one training 90 people were in attendance. He mentioned a new, larger building is being constructed to move the raptors from the cramped area. He described what type of activity is used to train and feed the birds. Cathy said a \$50 donation would provide an up-close, personal experience with a raptor. When the birds are moved to their new homes, the old facility will again be used for raptor rehabilitation.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20AM. Next General meeting will be at WLP, Ramada 2 at 8AM on August 12. This will be a potluck as usual.

Submitted by Kay Alderton, Secretary/Board member.