

Minutes of TRACKS General Meeting
at Sal and Teresa's Restaurant Woodland Road Lakeside, AZ January 13, 2024

Meeting called to order by Lynn Krigbaum, Vice President, at 8 AM.

There were 25 members present. A new member : David Samala.

Minutes of previous (December) meeting reviewed. Motion made to accept by Jim Snitzer, second by Gaston Porterie. All in favor.

No agenda, No Old Business

New Business:

- 1) Renata Stark inquired about the status of the Buena Vista Trail. Jason Moore is head of the group involved in the re-route. There has been a land exchange there.
- 2) Lynn announced that Pat Calkins, the originator of the Up The Hill Gang hikes has passed at the age of 92 yrs.
- 3) Jim Snitzer spoke about the recent decision of PTLIS Town Council to request an appraisal for the purchase of the rest of Woodland Lake Park Tract. The group Save Our Park (President Eric Kramer) has agreed to pay for thinning (\$300,000). Total Park acreage of 580+ acres has been divided – 40 acres to stay with the Forest Service and which is permitted to Blue Ridge Unified School District for environmental studies, the Town already purchased 107 acres thanks to the Salter Family Foundation and that entity will pay for the appraisal and if the amount is appropriate, they will give the money to the Town for the purchase of the remainder of the park, approximately 435 acres. Jim went over the “pro’s and con’s” of the acquisition of the rest of the park. He invited TRACKS members to attend the Save Our Park meeting on January 22nd at 2PM at the Town Hall.
- 4) Jim also announced a presentation at the Nature Center by Barb Davis tonight (1/13) at 6 PM. 2 Films will be shown: Wildlife in the White Mountains and in her backyard.
- 5) Jim also described the renovations taking place at the Nature Center, including expansion of their store. He also commented on the new Raptor facility, which includes a viewing area. The raptors are slowly adjusting to their new environment. This will be open to the public in a month or so and is free.
- 6) The Nature Center will celebrate their 20th anniversary this March. Eagle Fest will be presented again this year on February 3rd at the Nature Center and then at Lazy Oaks Resort. Jim asked any fishermen who catch fish and don't want them to bring them to the raptor center for the eagle. The Nature Center as well as Land On Sky are 501(c)(3) groups so donations are tax deductible.
- 7) Lynn told the group that the annual Eastern Arizona Regional Science Fair needs judges. It will be February 24th in Snowflake and training is at 9AM with judging from 10 until 2 including lunch. Entries are from Kindergarten through High School in Navajo and Apache Counties. Winners may participate in the state competition.
- 8) New member David Samala spoke of starting hikes on weekends and afternoons. More information will be provided in the future and would appear in future newsletters.
- 9) Cathy Purvis spoke of turning in volunteer hours. She stated she has 13,000 hours so far.
- 10) Gaston then had everyone present wave and say “Welcome to TRACKS!” as he took a video.

11) Phil Donk announced a xc ski Sunday 1/14 at the Railroad grade trail. Meet at Hon-dah at 9AM. Meeting adjourned at 8:40AM. Note: there were 8 members who skied East Lane after the meeting. In lieu of a Board meeting, which was cancelled due to a snowstorm, Garth brought cards for Board members to sign to thank recent large donors.

Submitted by Kay Alderton, Secretary/Board Member

Next General Meeting will be at Sal and Teresa's on February 10th at 8AM.