

Minutes of TRACKS General meeting
July 13, 2024 at Woodland Lake Park Ramada 1

- 1) Meeting called to order by Steve Dobbs at 8:10 AM. 30 people were in attendance. Guests included: Debbie and Greg Wardlow, Joya Szalwinski (Forest Service Recreational Officer), 2 other Forest Service people John and Elliot. Joya is handing out special mugs today.
- 3) Minutes of June 1st GM distributed. Motion by David Samala. Second by Jim Snitzer. All in favor.
- 4) Old Business: Deferred.
- 5) New Business
 - a) There is a Firewise event today at the Blue Ridge Elementary school from 10 AM to 3 PM. There will be many exhibits including events for kids. TRACKS has a table manned by volunteers. The Forest Service will bring Smokey.
 - b) Zia Rides will have a gravel road race on 9/14. Distances vary from 30 to 50 to 100 miles. Epic Rides Tour of the White Mountains is 10/5. This is the 20th year.
 - c) There will be a Chipmunk re-route in the future between mileage signs 8 and 18.
 - d) Blue Ridge Shortcut Loop is completed and maps are available. Joya will produce new maps.
- 6) Other announcements
 - a) Kay announced a memorial service for Ginny Handorf at St. Mary's church at 10 AM. Ginny was one of the original TRACKS members, involved in the trail building and was Mayor of PTLs during the Rodeo-Chediski fire in 2002.
 - b) Arlene Nelson announced she has new tee shirts in S, M, and L in short and long sleeves. \$20 for short and \$25 for long sleeves. She also has 1 hat left and 2 XL sweatshirts.
 - c) Steve told the group that hikes will be on Facebook now.
 - d) Dave Samala spoke about his next hike this coming Monday – the Buena Vista to Chihuahua Pines. You can email him for future hikes and meeting places. Cathy Purvis spoke about Dave's hikes which are faster hikes and later in the day.
 - e) Heather Steiner spoke of the Tuesday hikes which are shorter, 3 miles or less. There have been 37 hikers on some hikes.
 - f) Steve spoke about the Buena Vista trail. The land transfer is complete and is now bordered by barbed wire fencing, which limits the hike from BV9 to BV19.
 - g) Jim Snitzer spoke on the Raptor show at the Nature Center. Advance tickets are required to not go over capacity of the seats. Various species included the long-eared owl. There is entertainment for juveniles. There is also a plan at WMNC to place artificial Christmas trees across the upper border of the large room. There are improvements in the store and many items for sale.
 - h) Peggy Lund announced she has been cancer free for 3 ½ years. She also stated volunteers are needed for the upcoming "Happy Tails" event hosted by the Humane Society on August 24th. She has raffle tickets available for items donated to the cause. It will be at Charlie Clarks.
 - i) Tom Jernigan announced that Audubon meets the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30 PM at the Nature Center. All are invited and there is a special program at each meeting.
 - j) Joan Patrick reminded her trail head adopters to stock their trail heads with maps.
 - k) Lynn Krigbaum offered some maps of the Big Springs area. Trail has numbers on the ground and the maps have the keys to the numbers on the ground.

l) Jim Snitzer spoke of “Save Our Park” - a group organized to raise funds to purchase the park. Appraisal is in the future, perhaps September. The Town has allowed a space in their budget, but the amount is not definite. Jim spoke of the equipment needed for maintenance, such as mastication of brush, trees, etc.

m) There was a recognition of Lynn K. and Jim S. for their tenure on the Town Council.

n) Cathy P. spoke of the CPR/1st Aid class on this previous Friday. 17 members took the class. Cathy can connect others interested in future classes. Jim S. spoke of update AED's (Automatic External Defibrillators) which are more effective.

7) Next General meeting at Woodland Lake Park Ramada 2 on August 10th at 8 AM. Potluck.

8) Meeting adjourned at 9:15 AM.

Submitted by Kay Alderton, Secretary/Board member