

CMC COUNCIL MEETING

AUGUST 1 2013 6-9 PM

WEST ASHEVILLE LIBRARY, 942 HAYWOOD ROAD

Council Members Present

Marcia Bromberg, Barbara Morgan, Stuart English, Jim Ariail, Barth Brooker, Don Gardner, Lee Silver, Sawako Jager, Kay Shurtleff

Council Members Absent

Danny Bernstein, Tish Desjardins, Pete Petersen, Jim Reel

Guests

Rachel Hodge, Ruth Hartzler, Herman Gucinski, Lenny Bernstein

The meeting was called to order by Marcia and the minutes were accepted from the May 2, 2013 meeting.

Marcia gave the introductions and the Treasurers report was given by Jim Ariail. Jim provided an overview of the June financial statements. The current cash balance is \$44,556.09. The checking account balance is \$4,016.56. Jim has not had to take any money out of CDs to pay bills because cash flow has been good. The checking account balance for the end of July is down to \$2,598.00. Jim will take money out of CDs when the checking account balance is down to \$1000.00. Jim explained that accumulated interest from the Phil Smith Memorial Fund CDs will be taken out to help fund the work on the parking lot at Max Patch.

However, Duane Stutsman has not, as of yet, requested reimbursement. None of the money from the Mission Hospital Foundation Grant has been spent. It still has a balance of \$1,000.00. The A. T. Tag Grant has a balance of \$729.40. We will vote on a budget for 2014 at the October meeting. Jim will send out a request for

budget input to Committee chairs after the August Financial Statements are issued.

Next Rachel Hodge, a representative from ECO was introduced to speak about an upcoming ECO Hike-a-Thon. ECO is a 25.5 year old Henderson County environmental organization. The event will be a fund raiser in October and ECO wants us to partner in it. It might be two weekends or week days and participants would pledge an amount of money to ECO. Marcia said we need someone to take leadership for this if we participated. We could advertise it in our newsletters, Facebook, and Meetup. We could possibly lead hikes, but this will take further discussion.

Lenny Bernstein-ATC Biennial

It was a great biennial with enthusiastic people. 963 registered and there were many repeaters. At the ATC business meeting 5 CMC members received 25 year awards: Danny, Lenny, Dwayne Stutzman, Neal Andrae, and Lew Blodgett. There were 159 hikes, 23 excursions, 71 workshops, and 9 entertainment events. The next Biennial will be held in 2015 at Shenandoah College in Winchester, Va. A new board of directors was announced and Lenny was reelected to it. Lenny wrote an article on CMC's 90th birthday year for AT Journeys magazine. Marcia said that Lenny did a terrific job running the biennial.

Marcia spoke on possible reimbursement for Biennial Volunteers and said that this would set a bad precedent. Lee Silver said there was no equitable way to do it because of the different levels of volunteer activity. Lenny said that the ATC had to charge a certain amount to pay the hosting college. It was decided that this was not a practical idea.

Map Project update- Marcia

This will be a new version of Bernard Elias's 100 Favorite Hikes that we were approached to do by Steve Kemp of Great Smoky Mountains Association

Publishing. Bruce, Danny, and Marcia met with Steve and a contract was signed. CMC will receive \$500 at the signing and another \$500 when we submit the finished work. Danny and Bruce are co-chairs and Marcia, Jim Reel, and Stuart English are on the committee to research these hikes. The hikes will have a short description with mileage, ascent, and other attributes and will be mapped with Garmin GPS. A big launch event will be held in the Asheville area.

Technology Update

Charlie Ferguson is no longer active with the website or the hiking committee, but did spend some time with Lynn Ebanks. She will be available to us when needed and will be paid on a case by case basis. Martyn Easton has helped also as has Tim Carrigan who could serve as a back-up to Lynn.

MST Challenge- Sawako

Because of the recent BRP closing, Sawako suggested allowing more time to complete this challenge. The BRP has set Labor Day as a possible opening of the parkway near Tanbark Tunnel. Barbara suggested adding miles beyond Black Mountain Campground if the BRP does not open in time.

Also involving Challenges, the Completers list needs to be updated on the Website.

We are thinking of a way to make the AT and MST Challenges permanent.

During our 7th Inning stretch we sang Happy Birthday to Jim Ariail and ate cake made by Marcia.

Communications- Stuart

The Communications Committee is working along with the Hiking Committee on the FH 100 Trail Map. (see above)

Danny sent an article about our 90th to local press but as yet no one has picked up on it.

Conservation-Ruth Hartzler and Herman Gucinski

CMC has declared a position on the Courthouse Creek logging project and is against logging in the view shed of the ALT in the vicinity of Farlow Gap which is the Pink Shell Azalea area. A letter has been sent to the FS they will review this matter.

Currently the Pisgah and Nantahala National Forests are working on a new management plan that will set forest policy for 15 years. It is important that we decide what we want in this as will other groups involved (horse people, bikers, hunters, etc). The Forest Service wants input from the users of the Forest and encourages collaboration. CMC conservation people have attended some meeting, but more of us need to get involved. We need partner organizations like FMST and A. T. to be involved. For us to have input we must be formal member of a Collaborative or act as an independent entity. If we do the latter, we need to carefully consider our needs. Lenny proposed getting other Hiking organizations involved. We will discuss this more at the next meeting. It is going to be a long process and will not be resolved for several years. There will an article in the next Let's Go about this issue.

Education –Kay Shurtleff

Kay is our new Councilor for Education. She suggested a Map and Compass Course and Chad Kleinfelt at REI to teach it. It would cost \$250 for 15 people. Marcia suggested charging \$20 a person and advertising in eNews. Also, she asked Kay if she wanted to form an Education Committee. In the past Dave Wetmore

and Becky Smucker had taught such a course and it was suggested that they be asked first to teach it.

Kay also suggested starting a Take a Kid Hiking. The hiking committee will look into this.

Hiking- Marcia

The Hike Leaders Dinner will be at Pack Tavern on the last Friday in February. Also, Paul Benson will no longer be responsible for offering 2 Meet-Up hikes a month next year. Should we keep Meet-Up?

Trail Maintenance- Marcia

The Trail Maintenance Picnic will be on September 21 at Lake Julian.

The crews are behind in weed whacking because of all the rain.

Membership-Barbara Morgan

We have 104 new members through July 31. Of that number 90 live in this area and 14 live farther away. Barbara said that she cannot access a Renewal Report for 2013.

The pdf option for the Lets Go newsletter is a great success. Every new member since May has opted for the pdf by mail. This is saving the club money that can be well used in other areas. The revised paper application/renewal form is available on the website. Most people are renewing on line, however. We will try the

revised application on the invitation to the Annual Dinner. Email notifications to new members and the Welcome letter have all been revised to address the pdf option and to let members know to expect their Diamond Brand gift vouchers. Thanks, Lenny for continuing to do this!

Marcia adjourned the meeting and the Council retired to Executive Session.