

# CAROLINA MOUNTAIN CLUB (CMC)

## Minutes of Council Meeting

October 6, 2016

**Council Officers:** President, Barbara Morgan; Vice President, Randy Fluharty; Treasurer, Ann Hendrickson; Secretary, Paula Massey; Immediate Past President, (vacant position) Councilor of Communication, Kathy Kyle; Councilor of Conservation, Ruth Hartzler; Councilor Education/Outreach, Kay Shurtleff; Councilor for Hiking, Brenda Worley; Councilor for Membership, Lee Silver; Councilor for Technology, Marcia Bromberg; Councilor for Trail Maintenance, Pete Peterson; Councilor-at-Large, Steve Pierce; Councilor-at-Large, Tom Weaver.

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by President Barbara Morgan at 6 pm with the following councilors in attendance: Ann, Randy, Kathy, Kay, Brenda, Marcia, Lee, Steve, Ruth, and Paula. Absent: Tom and Pete. Guests: Ron Navik (Trail Maintenance); Paul Llanso (Leave No Trace Coordinator); and Les Love. Note:

**Approval of the Minutes:** A motion to approve the minutes of the August 1, 2016 meeting was passed.

**Reports from Guests:** Les presented a report on the status of the MST book sales and inventory; bulk orders were delivered to Diamond Brand, Black Dome and Mast General resulting in a remaining inventory of 63 books in stock. Profit from wholesale orders is in the range of \$4.23 while direct sales to individuals nets \$8 in profit. Some books have sold on Amazon. Les and others are working with state individuals to get approval for a new route to carry the MST from the Smokies to the new section west of Waterrock Knob, and the new route will be added to the next edition of the MST book. Les suggested that Clay Jordan, Deputy Superintendent of the Great Smokies Mountains NP be invited as guest speaker for the 2017 Spring Social; council members agreed.

Paul presented a report on the Leave No Trace project; while there are several goals, including education of the public and hike leader community, the data collection phase is the only one implemented to date. General discussion of Council members regarding the prioritization of goals and consensus that the general public, as opposed to the hike leader community, should be the priority and that there were several options for promotion, including the youth challenge and use of website and public media.

**Treasurer's Report:** Ann presented the Year to Date (YTD) Financial Statement (1/01/2016 thru 9/30/2016), with report that dues collections are on target compared to this time last year and that contributions are above expected. Council members moved to accept the YTD Financial Report. Review of Draft 2017 Budget: Ann presented the draft budget for the upcoming year based upon the projected income and expenses and past history. Motion: Council members unanimously approved the Draft 2017 Budget as presented. This Budget will now be presented to the membership for their vote during the Annual Meeting on November 5<sup>th</sup>.

## Reports

Barbara announced that Ed Paulkovits has declined the position of Grants Coordinator. Also, she asked that the minutes show the outcome of the recent email vote regarding “paperless” dissemination of Let’s Go. The vote was unanimous in voting for the paperless dissemination. See additional details under Communications.

**Conservation:** Ruth provided an update on the proposed Forest Service Wilderness Evaluation Project, including the public meetings and written document. It was noted that all the areas included in the document eventually receiving wilderness designation by Congress is unlikely but that it is imperative that as much be protected as possible, and that the hiking community have input. General discussion regarding the inclusion of Sam’s Knob Extension in CMC’s report; it was agreed that the Forest Service boundary for that area was appropriate. In general, it was agreed that the overall goal is to seek as much protection for the listed areas as possible while preserving the ability to maintain trails using power tools where appropriate. In addition, it is desirable to protect the viewshed, sound barrier, and sensory experience of these areas. Ruth confirmed the changes to be made to the document Council moved to accept the report as amended.

**Communications:** Kathy presented the recommendation of the Communication Committee to include the transition to the PDF format for Let’s Go, reserving written copies to those few members who cannot access or print the PDF version. Marcia agreed to identify these individuals and copy and mail copies to them on quarterly basis. The revised edition will include all the information currently in Let’s Go with the exception of the articles and photos. The articles will be moved over to the eNews that is edited by Stuart English. Constant Contact, the current on-line newsletter system will be utilized for Let’s Go since AOL accounts will block mass e-mail mailings. Marcia, Barbara, and Kathy agreed to prepare an article for the 2017 First Quarter Let’s Go, the last issue to be published under the current distribution system, to publicize the transition to paperless newsletter beginning with the 2017 Second Quarter edition.

**Education & Community Outreach:** Kay reported that the most recent Youth Partnership Challenge hike had three children and there are already nine signed up for the upcoming wilderness hike.

**Hiking:** Brenda is working on the first quarter of the 2017 hiking schedule and has begun the preliminary work on plans for the hike leader dinner in February. Barbara shared that the Friends of MST are planning a “MST in a Day” event for September 9, 2017 in which volunteers across the state will hike all portions on that day. CMC will support this effort for the portion maintained by the club.

**Membership:** Lee distributed a written report that indicates membership is slightly up compared to this time last year, including more family memberships. Total membership is 833.

**Trail Maintenance:** Ron presented the report in Pete’s absence and shared that a major re-route of about 1.5 miles near Firescald Knob on the AT has been completed, as well as continual work on the trails currently maintained.

A reroute of the trail at the top of Sam's Knob is planned, but awaiting word from the Pisgah District that they are ready to perform the NEPA evaluation. So far, no word although we have been waiting for three years.

Friends of Pisgah had a Pisgah Pride Day with over 400 volunteers working on various tasks, including 40 volunteers who worked on the trails. CMC was well represented in this effort.

The maintenance grants that have been received for 2016 have been expended and reports filed with the funding sources. A new grant application will be submitted to the Buncombe County Recreation Department.

General discussion on the recent restriction of trail maintenance in Cherokee protected lands that means that no work that disturbs the soil may be performed by CMC maintainers on any of our portion of the AT. A waiver is being submitted by the Cherokee district to relieve this restriction, but we have to sit tight for its approval. Fortunately, winter is upon us.

Council approved a motion to approve travel expenses for Ron Navik to attend an upcoming FMST Task Force meeting that will require one overnight lodging.

**Technology:** Marcia reported that Tim Carrigan made updates to the member and trail maintenance data bases that are still being implemented and that the additional expenses of Stratos this year were due to the recent hacking of our system and resultant repair. Tim is working with Marcia and Randy on developing an electronic distribution of Diamond Brand vouchers to replace the current mail-out system.

### **Other Reports**

Annual Meeting Update: Randy has met with the Chariot facility catering manager and that payment for the dinner will be by club check the night of the event. He has completed two mailings to invited guests and currently four have replied that they will come. The Annual Dinner Meeting Agenda was reviewed with suggestions to facilitate a smooth flow of events. Documents for the Annual Meeting must be posted online no less than two weeks before the meeting, and Kathy will send out links via eNews as well. Some printed copies will be available on each table at the meeting.

OLLI Proposal (UNCA): Randy reported that Herb Gunn, of OLLI has approached the CMC regarding interest to sponsor an intermediate hiking class in the spring that would complement the current "beginning hiking" class that is being offered. He is proposing that CMC help with some in-class presentations such as preparing for a hike and with leading one or more hikes for class members. Randy will seek further information but in general there was agreement for CMC participation.

Great Smoky Mountain Association Award: Barbara displayed the award medallion that was given to CMC as one of the 100 Most Influential and will give to Rocko Smucker for placement in the archives.

Discussion on vision for January Planning Session: Barbara suggested that we devote the morning to team building and long term planning/use of reserve funds and then the afternoon visiting the CMC archives, pending agreement by Rocko to host this tour. Additional input/suggestions are welcome.

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:50 pm.**

Minutes prepared by Paula Massey, 10/2016.