

CAROLINA MOUNTAIN CLUB

Council Meeting

February 13, 2018

Council Officers: President, Randy Fluharty; Vice President, Debby Jones; Treasurer, George Bauernfeind; Secretary, Paula Massey; Immediate Past President, Barbara Morgan Councilor for Communication, Kathy Kyle; Councilor for Conservation, Ruth Hartzler; Councilor for Education/Outreach, Jan Onan; Councilor for Hiking, Gregory Bechtel; Councilor for Membership, Lynn Saul; Councilor for Technology, Judy Magura (with Jim); Councilor for Trail Maintenance, Ron Navik; Councilor-at-Large, Michael Fisher; Councilor-at-Large, Chris Koebelin.

Pre-Meeting Presentation by Paul Llanso on Leave No Trace. Paul presented a variety of useful aids in carrying out Leave No Trace activities.

Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 6 pm by President Randy Fluharty with the following in attendance: George, Barbara, Kathy, Ruth, Jan, Gregory, Lynn, Judy, Jim, Ron, Michael, Chris and Paula. Debby Jones was absent. Guests: Tom Weaver and Paul Llanso.

Approval of Minutes A motion was made and seconded to accept the October 2, 2017 minutes as written. Motion carried.

Business

Treasurer's Report - George reviewed to 2017 financial statements, noting that there was a surplus in excess of \$60,000 in the general fund and a net income over expenses of \$3150 in operating budget at year end.

Budget Surplus - General discussion of strategies and special projects that could be funded with part of the surplus funds in addition to retaining an amount equal to an annual budget, including subsidizing the annual dinner to increase attendance, trail maintenance equipment and training, technology, and joining the Chamber of Commerce. Committees will be asked to generate ideas for projects.

CMC Insurance Policies – Barbara reviewed the CMC Liability insurance in response to inquiry at the Planning Retreat and reported that there is comprehensive coverage, including a “blanket coverage” for medical expenses. It was suggested that an incident report form be created that can be completed immediately after an accident on the scheduled hikes by the hike leader and by council member at a CMC event, such as annual dinner. Barbara will draft a form for review by Council members at May meeting.

New Server Host Recommendations – Judy and Jim provided an overview of the written report that outlined the process currently underway to move the CMC public website to Hostek; this includes expansion of features as well as increased efficiency and response time.

Revised Scout Report of Hikes - General discussion about ability to log in all your hikes, including Challenge hike documentation. In addition, a recommendation from CMC volunteer programmer, Tim Carrigan, was brought before Council for discussion. Tim has recommended that scouting reports for AT and MST hikes be automatically routed to the appropriate section maintainer and to the AT Supervisor or MST Supervisor for follow up on trail issues such as downed trees and other maintenance needs. The scout report would be different from the hike report in that it would focus on trail issues with a secondary emphasis on trail attributes. The hike report would continue to emphasize trail and hike attributes. It was suggested that the scouting report be more standardized with check offs for the four areas of concern to trail maintainers: Blazes; Weeds; Downed Trees; and Trail Erosion. This recommendation and the suggested addition were well received and the Technology committee will follow up with Tim.

Appointment of Grant Coordinator – Randy announced that Kathy McAuley has offered to serve in this position and will oversee grant solicitation and application process and as needed will write grant applications. It was acknowledged that the trail maintainers have done an excellent job seeking and acquiring grant funds for maintenance equipment and training and will continue to do so.

Operations Manual – General discussion on the need to review and update all councilor job descriptions to accurately reflect current responsibilities as well as ongoing updating of the Operations Manual. Chris is helping to work on job descriptions with each councilor and will send changes to Barbara who will coordinate these revisions and all other Operations Manual revisions.

General Announcements – Randy announced that he, Elaine Tennen and Carroll Koeplinger will be interviewed for a local radio show on hiking and hiking vacations. Barbara provided an update on the 3rd Edition of MST by Walt Weber. The book will be published after the completion of the two tunnel bypass trails being built this spring. The 50th Anniversary of the AT is this year and the MST Gathering of Friends will take place in March.

Council Reports

Technology – Judy and Jim presented the update on transition of the website to a new company as recommended by web designer. A tutorial on the use and features of website, both public and private domain, will be given to council members in May.

Hiking – Gregory reported that Hike Leader Dinner scheduled February 23 is in final preparation; general discussion on ways to provide new hike leader orientation as well as idea for future use of surplus funds: first aid kits for hike leaders. It was suggested that an annual hike leader agreement to be signed similar in format to the trail maintainers. Gregory has used Meetup to schedule a dog friendly hike and a Hike Leader training hike. The dog friendly hike will be viewed as a test. While other scheduled hikes will continue to have our no pets policy in force, the Meetup dog friendly hikes may serve to meet a need for this type activity. Dog friendly hikes will have strict rules regarding control of the animals.

Conservation – Ruth and Michael led discussion on need for a policy statement on multi use trails and the need to have trail maintainer's input; position would incorporate thoughts on new trails as well as

conversion of current hiking trails to multi use trails. It was suggested to contact Peter Barr of Conserving Carolina since he has technical expertise related to creating new trails, hiking only and multi-use. A draft of this policy statement will be presented during the May Council meeting.

It was reported that Mountain True will be presenting a panel discussion to the community, with representation of CMC, to gain consensus on forest service land management-Pisgah Forest- to include environmental impact statement.

Education – Jan indicated an interest in finding funding sources for first aid kits and water testing kits to be used in during the Youth Partner Challenge hikes. She is seeking additional members for the Education committee and will be working on the sub-committee on membership to identify ways to increase council participation; will be tested on Council members. A hike is being planned in conjunction with National Trails Day on June 2 at Max Patch.

Maintenance – Ron reported that work has begun on the Rattlesnake Lodge Trail with a large turnout of volunteers on multiple crews; a AT Tag Grant has been applied for to compensate for the supplies needed for the Max Patch project. The ATC has put out a general call for prospective board members with nomination deadline of March 15.

Communication – Kathy reported that the Communication committee will be meeting the following Monday; if Councilors have an issue that needs to be publicized in press release format they are advised to contact her.

Membership – Lynn asked that she be kept informed of deceased members so that the membership record would be noted accordingly; there are 28 new memberships year to date.

Meeting Adjourned: Randy adjourned the meeting at 8:50 pm

Next Meeting: May 8, 2018, 6:00PM-9:00 PM at the Earthfare on Hendersonville Rd.

Summary of Meeting prepared by Paula Massey.