

CAROLINA MOUNTAIN CLUB (CMC)

Minutes of Council Meeting

February 14, 2017

Council Officers: President, Barbara Morgan; Vice President, Randy Fluharty; Treasurer, (vacant position) Secretary, Paula Massey; Immediate Past President, (vacant position) Councilor of Communication, Kathy Kyle; Councilor of 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, Ron Navik; Councilor-at-Large, Steve Pierce; Councilor-at-Large, Tom Weaver.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Barbara Morgan at 6:15 pm with the following councilors in attendance: Randy, Kathy, Kay, Brenda, Marcia, Steve, Ruth, Ron, and Paula. Not present: Lee and Tom.

Approval of the Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes of the October 6, 2016 meeting was passed.

Resignation of Treasurer: Barbara announced that Ann Hendrickson has resigned as Treasurer, effective February 16, 2017. Barbara thanked Ann for her dedication to the job during her 2016 term as the Club's Treasurer.

REPORTS, DISCUSSION AND UPDATES

Maintenance Training Reimbursement: Barbara provided summary of recent situation whereby a non-CMC member took the in-house CPR/FA training as required for Sawyer Certification by the Blue Ridge Parkway/National Parks. Because the individual was not a club member, he was not reimbursed by the club, and the CPR/FA trainer requested that he be reimbursed. A search of past minutes and operations manual did not include specific requirements, like membership in CMC, for reimbursement of training expenses. Marcia stated that the rule had been set, not to reimburse training for non members at the time Wilderness First Aid was last offered to hike leaders. Discussion followed, with pros and cons of the club paying for such training.

MOTION-Marcia moved that while we welcome people to join us for trail maintenance only CMC members will receive financial reimbursement from the Club. Motion passed with a 6 to 3 vote.

High Peaks Request for Funding: Barbara provided overview of request of High Peaks Trail Association to borrow \$20,000 to initiate the NC state funded project at Mt. Mitchell (NC has requirement that reimbursed occurs after the specified phases are completed.)

MOTION-Randy moved that CMC not approve the request of High Peaks Trail Association for pre-funding in the amount of \$20,000 to initiate project. Motion passed.

Spring Social: This annual event will take place April 22, 2017 at the NC Arboretum which will include a presentation on the French Broad River. *MOTION*-Marcia moved that the cost be \$22 per person. Motion passed.

“Beyond Limits”: Barbara received a request on behalf of CMC to assist an individual who is disabled complete the section of the AT that CMC maintains. Extent of the individual’s inability to walk as well as special needs of this assistance is unknown. Kathy agreed to follow up with the Beyond Limits organization to request further details that are necessary for the Council to make an informed decision.

Status of Operations Manual: Steve reported that specific sections of the Manual have been sent to the respective committees for review and additional information. The next step will be to create a Table of Contents to determine the overall organization of the manual and which additional sections, if any, need to be written. The club hopes to finish this step by six months into the current year and to have the manual online by the end of the year.

Marcia will work with Tim Carrigan and the website managers on how to put the manual on the website when it is ready.

Annual Dinner Planning Update: Randy continues to explore cost effective venues in the Asheville area; he is finding that costs in the Asheville area are significantly higher than what we paid last year at the Chariot. He has explored the Century Room at Pack Square and has asked for suggestions for additional venues to explore. Council members suggested the Greek Orthodox Church meeting facility and Hilton at Biltmore Park. Randy will continue to look at options. There was discussion about whether to consider looking for sponsors to offset the cost to individuals, but no decision was made.

OLLI Hiking Classes: Randy reported that he, along with several other CMC members, will be teaching/leading beginning and intermediate hiking classes for a 4 week period beginning March 23. There will be a general orientation to hiking, to include safety and what to wear/bring, for all who enroll in these classes on Saturday, March 11 and CMC has been invited to display membership information at this event. Paula agreed to compile materials and be present from 9 am to 11 am to respond to CMC membership inquires; Steve will also participate if possible.

MST in a Day Status: Barbara provided an update on the planning for the September 9th event whereby the entire MST will be hiked by various individuals on that day. The sections maintained by CMC are the focus for CMC member’s attention. It was decided that members be encouraged to sign up early, prior to the MeetUp signup opportunities that will open via the FMST website the weekend of their Gathering of Friends and annual meeting on March 24-26. for a specific section to hike in addition to having a team of members that could be sent to a specific area at the last minute if that section was found to be “unattended”. Sponsors are needed for the two Segments we are responsible for and Randy and Barbara are working on that.

Request from The Wilderness Society (TWS): Barbara received an e-mail request from Jill Gottesman of TWS right before this meeting for review and public support of their initiatives. Action-Tabled until May meeting to allow time for review and further information if needed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

Technology: Marcia reported that she is waiting for the cost estimate to change the format of website to allow cell phone and tablet format; if over budget a request for additional funding will be submitted by e-mail to council. If needed, this is a potential use of some of our reserve funds.

Membership: Written report was submitted in Lee's absence. The total membership is currently 902 with 210 new members and 660 renewed members; balance of total membership is family members.

Maintenance: Ron received a request for further information of the ATC Garlic Mustard Pull project that Brenda coordinated with ATC last year. Brenda agreed to help Ron understand the project. The Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation met with Ron and Barbara to provide information of the youth group "steward" program to work with youth over 18 on trail maintenance. CMC has been offered a grant of \$2,500 to assist in this project. Ron will work with the BRP Foundation on this. The trail maintenance training videos will be put on the website for general membership to view; general discussion on need to find CMC member replacement to oversee training of CPR and first aid, a requirement for sawyers to recertify every two years and all new sawyers to be eligible for certification by the various entities for which we do trail maintenance. There will be a Crew Leaders' meeting on February 23 and the SORO ATC Regional meeting will take place March 11-12.

Hiking: Brenda reported that the hike leader dinner will be held on February 24 and that 57 have confirmed to date; the next quarter hiking schedule is almost complete. It was estimated that 74 hike leaders are needed for one year's hiking schedule.

Education: Kay displayed the recent article in the Asheville Citizens Time (ACT) that featured the Youth Partnership Challenge and reported on a phone call from the Regional Girl Scouts requesting a youth hike to celebrate the Girl Scouts' Birthday March 11-12. She will be working with them to plan a special hike for the Girl Scouts to celebrate this event.

Conservation: Ruth presented an update on the Pisgah/Nantahala Management Plan that is still under development. She recently participated in a consensus building meeting of the Organizing Committee of the Stakeholders Forum whereby one specific area of the Nantahala forest was selected for study and identification of needs by the participants. This prototype effort may then be expanded to include the full Stakeholder Forum. At the next meeting of the Conservation Committee they will be reviewing specific maps to identify further areas for study. The Conservation Committee will meet Thursday, February 16.

Communication: Kathy will hold a meeting of her committee on February 23; a transition has been made of the coordinator of E-News (Susan Canoli will be doing this) and Stuart will be transitioning to the all-electronic Let's Go. In addition, he is posting past Council minutes on the website. Kathy provided an estimate of \$197 for 1,000 2-sided full color bookmarks to be used for general distribution to include general information regarding CMC and website. She will continue to work on this and will share drafts and projected costs with the Council. Communications Committee will meet Thursday, February 23.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Council then went into Executive Session

Report out from Executive Session: Due to the resignation of Ann Hendrickson, Treasurer, effective 2-16-17 and the need to maintain the club's financial processes until a new Treasurer can be appointed until approved by the membership at the Annual Meeting, Barbara asked Council to allow her to appoint an Assistant Treasurer, to work with her in the interim. Council agreed. Barbara then said that Beth Fluharty, who is a CPA and has experience with doing the bookkeeping for several non-profits is willing to help. The position of Treasurer will be advertised in the upcoming eNews.

Minutes prepared by Paula Massey.