

**CMC Council Meeting**  
**Thursday August 2, 2012**  
**6 P.M. to 9 P.M.**  
**West Asheville Library, Asheville**

**Council Members Present**

Jim Ariail, Danny Bernstein, Marcia Bromberg, Barth Brooker, Don Gardner, Barbara Morgan, Pete Petersen, Lee Silver, Jim Spicer

**Council Members Absent**

Peter Barr, Tish Desjardins, Stuart English, Jim Reel

**Guests**

Kristin Ball, Gale O'Neal, Becky Smucker

**Visit by Kristin Ball, Forest Supervisor of National Forests in North Carolina**

Kristin Ball, the new Forest Supervisor of the four National Forests in North Carolina, was our guest. Kristin came from Coconino National Forest in Flagstaff Arizona. She gave us a short rundown of CMC's relationship to the Forests. She encouraged us to continue our relationship with our District Rangers.

On the Trail Strategy Initiative, she said that "we want a real conversation about our trail system and input on your favorite trail. Then we'll put it all together and see what makes sense." We should expect a meeting in late October on what was said about trails and then a draft report.

In addition, the Forest Service will start its Forest Plan Revision Process in October, 2012. CMC needs to think about what kind of representation we want in this process and whether we should combine with other groups. There will be meetings all over Western North Carolina. The last Forest Management Plan was in 1995 but there've been many amendments since.

Kristin commended CMC for all our hard work on trails. She'll be put on the list to receive the eNews and *Let's Go*.

In other business,

The CMC Council minutes for May 10, 2012 were approved.

**Treasurer's report**

Since the last CMC meeting, CMC has received a NC sales tax refund for what CMC has spent. The Council thanked Jim for all his hard work to get this refund.

In other financial business, trail maintenance expenses have gone up because more people are doing maintenance and filing for expenses. We also have more maintenance equipment.

Is it time to raise dues? Marcia and Jim have had informal discussions on the matter. Both the website itself and extra maintenance on the website are expensive. Marcia will write a position paper on raising dues.

Is it time to think about hiring a part-time employee?

We should look for more donations. Danny will write a piece for the eNews encouraging members to make donations.

## **Business**

### **1. Trails Representative to Buncombe County Greenway Commission**

Ann Babcock will be recommended to represent the Trails Community for the Buncombe County Greenway Commission.

### **2. Use of Sales Tax Refund**

We're looking for a three-year Profit and Loss statement. Some of the sales tax refund will be used to offset our deficit so we can stay within our budget.

### **3. Technology Update/Future Plans**

We're paying \$360 a month to Stratos. Marcia will advise Stratos of commitment to pay 8 hours help/month for the next 4 months but will also ask that unused hours be credited to the following month. She will also suggest a guaranteed base payment and suggested (\$270 per month). Jim will pay the invoice upon receipt of Marcia's email to Stratos

4. Pete Petersen said that he met with Kristin and Eric Crews, who works with volunteers, to restart relationships with the Forest Service.

### **5. Volunteer Coordinator Position**

Becky Smucker, working with Barbara Morgan and the membership committee, will be our volunteer coordinator or facilitator. She will work on a framework on how we integrate new members into the club. She offered several examples:

- A. On the website, now the volunteer tab is empty. It should be full of information.
- B. We should get people involved when they join and then renew.
- C. We should recognize when people are burned out.
- D. Systematic training will be offered on ways to approach people.
- E. Let's remember that our members are a powerful group of people.

Marcia said that we'll talk about this at our January retreat.

### **6. Alternate Route for MST**

Pete Petersen discussed the alternate route to the MST, alternate to the one that we're building from Soco Gap MST west to Waterrock Knob.

Danny stated that this alternate was discussed at the Friends of the MST annual meeting in February, 2012. FMST feels frustrated that there's not been a change in the MST out of the Smokies and on the Blue Ridge Parkway since the inception of the MST. When the Blue Ridge

Parkway banned walking through their tunnels, FMST had to come up with a different route. Now the FMST website is suggesting that long-distance hikers go out at Deep Creek, and eventually through Sylva and enter the MST east of Balsam Gap.

Don Walton is on the FMST board of directors but not as a representative of CMC. He and some helpers have been looking at road routes that bypass all the new trail sections that CMC has built.

Jim A. and others pointed out that CMC has a large vested interest in the new section of trail around Waterrock Knob. Pete P. will draft a letter to be sent on to Kate Dixon, ED of FMST.

#### 7. Electronic Archives

Pete P. is concerned that we have photographs and GPS tracks that we're losing without a way to archive them. Pete Steuer, Bruce Bente, and Pete Petersen will get together before the end of the year to work out how to archive our vast resource of information.

#### 8. Annual Meeting and Dinner Update

Don Gardner gave an update of the Annual Dinner.

It will be on Friday November 2 at Pack Tavern. We'll charge \$30 a head and CMC will subsidize the dinner at two dollars (\$2) a head. The schedule is as follows:

5:30 cocktail hour

6:30 dinner

7:30 meeting and speaker. Our speaker will be Mark Wenger, Executive Director of ATC.

#### 9. ATC Updates

Marcia Bromberg went to a meeting at Western Carolina University to look over the halls of residence. Planning for the Biennial is on track. Marcia, with Danny's full-hearted agreement, feels that CMC needs T-shirts for the Biennial meeting.

ATC will celebrate its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on August 14. Danny will advertise it on CMC's Facebook page.

#### 10. Contribution to Trail Maintainer's Picnic

We decided to contribute \$200 for the Trail Maintainer's Picnic.

11. Marcia will send a note of recognition and thanks to Piet Bodenhorst for the emergency access map he prepared for our section of the A.T. Marcia will draft an essay on CMC relationship with the Blue Ridge Parkway to support grant proposal for funding tools and equipment for new crews and crew members.

### **Committee Reports**

A. Challenge - No report

B. Communications – Danny for Stuart English

Kathy Kyle is doing a great job on the eNews and changing to Constant Contact was a good idea. Stuart will do a lengthy Council Corner for the 2012 Fourth Quarter *Let's Go*. We

have over 1,000 followers on Facebook. This is significant whether they actually join CMC or not. It shows that we reach a lot of people because of what we do.

C. Conservation – No report

D. Education - Jim Spicer

CPR training is now on a two year cycle. There will be CPR and First Aid classes in November.

Two concerned plant lovers alerted the maintenance crew that they had cut orchids on the A.T. Jim S. should work with John O'Dell of ATC to figure out how to avoid this.

E. Hiking – Marcia for Jim Reel

Nothing has happened on the Meet-Up group that was discussed the last time.

We need a half-day scheduler. Maybe two people should take over this responsibility.

F. Maintenance - Pete Petersen

We've added a new maintenance crew. We'll add another new crew for Chimney Rock. We might hold a sawing contest for a Boy Scout camp at a Saturday Workday. There was a crew chief meeting with Eric Crews and Eric will come out with a maintenance crew. Last year, CMC had 16,000 hours valued at \$23 an hour. Including section maintainers, 228 people were involved in maintenance.

G. Membership - Barbara Morgan

We have 908 members as of the last quarter. In that quarter, 36 new members joined.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Danny Bernstein