

CMC Council Meeting

8/7/2014

Earthfare South, 1856 Hendersonville Rd. Asheville, NC 28803

Council Members Present: Lenny Bernstein, Brenda Worley, Lee Silver, Pete Petersen, Jim Ariail, Barbara Morgan, Kay Shurtleff, Stuart English, Ann Hendrickson, Sawako Jager

Council Members Absent: Marcia Bromberg, Danny Bernstein, Tish Desjardins

Guests: Becky Smucker, Morgan Summerville

Lenny called the meeting to order and introduced Morgan Summerville, the Regional Chair of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. Morgan wanted to catch up with us about three things, the Konnarock Project: a relocation of the A.T. due to the purchase of 10,000 acres that will become Rocky Fork State Park. It will be a 4 mile relo and is almost complete with only 1500 feet left.

The Big Bald right- of- way, which involves a right of way to the homes in Wolf Laurel to the summit of Big Bald. This crosses the A. T. twice.

The Nantahala and Pisgah Forest plan change that may propose a wilderness area between I40, Snowbird Mountain to Allen Gap. Congress designates wilderness areas, so it would be a long time before anything happened. Our position is to oppose this because of hiking and trail maintenance concerns. Morgan understands our position.

The minutes from the May meeting were approved and accepted.

Treasurers Report Jim Ariail

- The Club has a positive cash flow for the previous month. We are OK with our finances.
- The cash flow next month will be negative because we spent most of the ATC grant. I am waiting on the bills.

- Bank of America Merchant Processing informed me that we need to add a level of security or face increased fees and greater liability for credit card processing. I spent \$188.00 with NewTek to increase our level of security for the next 3 years. Newtek runs the servers that host our web site.
- I have been talking with Pay Pal about taking over our credit card processing. They give non-profits a discount. Pay Pal would relieve the club of the liability and save money. I have been talking with Tim Carrigan about this. He offered to volunteer his time to do the programming. Unless the membership data base is updated in the same manner as it is today, I will not proceed with this. I ask if anyone on Council objected to me proceeding. There were no objections.
- I will be sending out a proposed budget before the next council meeting and asking for input. The proposed budget is a starting point. I will need to spend considerable time at the next council to reach a final budget and vote on it for submission to members at the Annual Meeting.

Membership Lee Silver reported a steady flow of 110 new members since the first of the year. All new members have opted for the electronic newsletter.

Lenny asked for a total membership number. Lee said that it was hard to determine that from the database and she would consult with Tim Carrigan about this.

Volunteer Coordinator Report Becky Smucker

Becky Smucker spoke about the Volunteer Facilitator Coordinator Job that has been a considered for several years but kept on hold for various reasons. It will involve matching up CMC members with volunteer jobs they would be proficient at and enjoy. Lenny said that an online gatekeeper is needed to put this on the website and the Membership Committee needs to partner with other committees.

Maintenance Pete Petersen talked about the issue of trail maintainer and membership. The Forest Service covers volunteers with workman's comp, so insurance is not an issue. Less than 10 trail crew members are not CMC members at this time.

Lenny feels the issue is not worth the argument without the insurance issue.

That brought up the question where non-members should be recognized and rewarded for hours. The Council approved the attached resolution that would not require trail maintainers to be club members, but would limit service awards to club members.

Pete said the Blue Ridge Parkway wants some hikes (shorter and easier) led for the National Park Service's 100th anniversary.

The Alt Art Loeb Trail section down to BRP is in very bad shape. A grant is being asked for to get an instructor to enable trails crews to do something about this.

The Sams Knob trail needs work. It is heavily eroded.

The Maintenance Picnic will be September 20. All Council members will be invited and it will be held at a pavilion at Lake Julian.

The Hickory Nut Gorge ribbon cutting ceremony is on August 27.

People are being fined for parking illegally at Graveyard Fields. FS 816 will be closed August 16 to fix the pot holes.

Hiking Brenda Worley reported that the 100 Favorite Hikes Map Project was at a standstill right now. The project needs a coordinator. Steve Pierce has been asked but hasn't responded yet. Lenny said that if we hadn't reached a decision in one month we should give the money back.

Education Kay Shurtleff reported that she would try to coordinate Family/Education hikes with the need for shorter easier hikes for the 100th Anniversary of the National Park Service.

Challenges Sawako Jager reported that she had met with Peter Barr and he told her that he would have the certificates printed for Challenge finishers. For the new ATC-MST Challenge, there is no coordinator yet and it is still up in the air. It should be ready by next year.

Annual Dinner Barbara Morgan said that Jeff Wilcox will be the speaker for the Annual Dinner. Jeff is a geology professor in Environmental Studies at UNCA and a CMC hiker. The dinner will be held at the Chariot in Hendersonville on November 1. It was decided that the cut off date for reservations would be 10/29/14.

Ann Hendrickson gave a report on the parking problem at Bull Gap. There not much room and residents will let people park on their property for \$5.00. Cars parked on the side of the road

will be fined \$250. Pete is going to ask Mark Woods, Superintendent of BRP about this situation.

In other business, Les Love has purchased and donated to the club, two weed eaters.

The meeting was ended and went into Executive Session.