

Carolina Mountain Club (CMC) 2019 Council Meeting

Tuesday, February 5, 2019, 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Earthfare, 1856 Hendersonville Rd, Asheville, NC 28803

Present:

President: Randy Fluharty

Secretary: Kathy McAuley

Treasurer: George Bauernfeind (via phone)

Immediate Past President: Barbara Morgan

Councilor for Communication: Stuart English

Councilor for Conservation: Mike Fisher

Councilor for Education and Community Outreach: Jan Onan

Councilor for Hiking: Gregory Bechtel

Councilor for Trail Maintenance: Ron Navik

Councilor for Technology: Jim Magura (stand-in for absent Judy Magura)

Councilor at Large: Hugh Hensleigh

Councilor at Large: Chris Koebelin

Absent:

Vice-President: Debby Jones

Councilor for Membership: Lynn Saul

Randy provided a welcome to the Council for 2019 and had Council members in attendance sign the annual Conflict of Interest Statement, to ensure no conflicts exist with Council members.

Approval of Minutes – Following a correction on the number of first aid kits that were obtained through a Walmart grant (25-30 versus 2 previously reported), the October 2018 minutes were motioned to be approved by Mike, seconded by Hugh and approved by the Council.

Business

Treasurer's Report – The Council reviewed copies of the 12/31/18 financials for CMC (attached). The 2018 revenues exceeded the prior year by \$5059, the balance is \$67,023. George explained that not for profits use fund accounting, whereby restricted funds are separate from the general fund or unrestricted fund. Council can use the funds as per the rules and regulations of the club. In 2018, there were three categories of restricted funds, which included:

1. Grant money (MST, ATC, and LL Bean)
2. Restricted funds for trail maintenance
3. Memorial funds

Operations Manual (OM) – Barbara has revised the OM for 2019. The changes include formatting changes and the table of contents is now three pages, with pagination. There is consideration to make this document available on the website. The plan going forward will be to include practical information within the OM to make more user friendly,

especially for new Council members. Barbara asked Council members to review the OM for any improvement opportunities. Stuart will place the 2019 OM in the University of North Carolina at Asheville archives. The role of Secretary, the taking of minutes, and approval of minutes has been added. Barbara has added Grant Guidelines and changed Hiking, due to changes in the hiker scheduling.

Nominating Committee- Barbara asked that Council members be cognizant, when meeting members on the trail or at events, of potential future committee members or Council members, where expertise or talents exist.

Speaker Series Partnership – Jennifer Pharr Davis (owner Blue Ridge Hiking) had an idea for a speaker series partnership, which Jennifer shared with the Education and Community Outreach Committee. Astral (a shoe company) can provide a venue and will provide a pair of shoes to any presenter participating in the Speaker Series. Blue Ridge Hiking will schedule and coordinate the speakers and may provide refreshments for any of these events. CMC would advertise the Speaker Series in eNews. These events would be open to the general public, not only CMC members. George will need to see what the partnership agreement is, prior to CMC proceeding (e.g. what will be posted to eNews and on the CMC website). CMC may use the names in promoting the Speaker Series, but CMC cannot link to a vendor's website from the CMC website or provide advertisement.

Action Item: Jan to contact Jennifer to discuss and to share CMC restrictions with Jennifer in advance of any partnership discussions.

CMC has an informal policy to have a party for active CMC members, when turning 90 years of age. CMC has an active member turning 90 years of age this year. A couple of CMC members have requested \$350 to rent a facility for a covered dish party for this individual. If CMC pays the facility rental fee, all CMC members must be invited.

Clarification of Committee versus Council decisions – Randy would like committees to make decisions that do not cost money (other than funds approved in the budget), commit CMC or change CMC policy. The committees are the experts in their individual area. If a decision is required that would commit additional funds, commit CMC or change CMC policy, the Council will need to approve. For example, the Council approves funds for trails maintenance, but the Trails Maintenance committee decides where and how to use the funding provided.

Committee Reports Including Diversity Ideas from Committee Meetings:

Technology – Jim – The Diamond Brand coupon is not working correctly and the technology for photo submission of trail problems is not working properly. When individuals try to submit photos of trail issues, the system provides a message that the mailbox is full. Technology will meet with the programmer to discuss. At the hike leaders' dinner, Judy will go over the on-line hike scheduling process. Judy will contact Council members for improvement ideas regarding the hike scheduling process. Ron recommended CMC maintain a database for people who have attended CPR/ first aid, similar to the database currently maintained for Sawyer class completion. Hike leaders

and helpers can now take the CPR class when spaces are available. A database would enable CMC members and committees to track when recertification is needed.

Conservation – Mike – In follow up to the planning meeting and the request for ideas for excess funds, CMC could bring in an expert on Appalachian Trails to assist with how forest service activities are monitored, including the planning, actual performance and post-performance of those activities. Also networking with other hiking organizations by providing travel and expense to attend conferences. There is an upcoming event in Asheville, the Southern Partnership, which will be at Blue Ridge Assembly, March 9th. Some CMC members currently attend, but more could also attend. This conference is mainly for trail management, but it is good for networking. Mike also discussed that we may be able to increase diversity through our public policy issues. Consideration needs to be given to our social media and how we leverage the club through social media. There is no update to the revised Nantahala Pisgah National Forest Plan (NPNFP). When the comment period reopens we will need to respond quickly. CMC will draft our public comment and seek input. CMC can publish a special edition of eNews to encourage club participation in the response to the NPNFP. The Conservation Committee will consider budgetary needs for generating comments on the NPNFP and bring a plan to Council for approval.

Action Item: Develop plan and budget needs for responding to the revised NPNFP (Mike)

Hiking – Gregory – The hike leader dinner will be held 2/22/19 at the Hilton, with a social hour at 6:00 p.m. and dinner at 6:45 p.m. A Leave No Trace hike was scheduled in January, but was called off due to very cold temperatures.

Education and Community Outreach – Jan – A document detailing partnership and sponsorship guidelines for the OM would be helpful going forward. CMC has requested an intern from UNCA. This is paid through UNCA, but any work would be provided for CMC. Jan recommended a pamphlet providing information on CMC and what we do, to help increase membership. The Youth Partnership Challenge has three new completers. There was discussion on providing the names and photos of the minor completers on our website with parental permission. Jan to provide more information on requirements for posting this information. The first aid kit supplies have been received and the first aid kits are being assembled for distribution to hike leaders at the hike leader dinner. All hike leaders that led two or more hikes in 2018 will be offered a first aid kit for CMC hike usage. Paul Llanzo is using some committee funds for a banner for Leave No Trace. Jan has discussed diversity with Julie from the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC). There is an upcoming workshop on diversity and Julie will see if CMC members can attend. CMC will need to determine what diversity means to us. The Hike Leader challenge may include classes with a point system (minimum number of points required), mentoring with a current hike leader, and certain required classes. Classes may include: GPS, Map and compass, CPR, and are subject to change. The committee would like to provide t-shirts for Hike Leader training completers. The committee is also developing a “Hike leader in training” certificate for youth that meet certain training requirements, to be determined. There will be theme hikes provided on a quarterly basis (e.g. photography) for general club hikes.

Action Item – Development of Partnership document for OM (George and Jan)

Action Item – Reach out to ATC on CMC attendance at Diversity workshop (Jan)

Trail Maintenance – Ron – The trail crews had been blocked from trail work on federal land during the government shutdown. Trail Maintenance worked at Rocky Fork State Park, Flag Pond, Tennessee. Trail Maintenance also worked on the Green River Game Lands State Park in North Carolina. Three grant requests are currently in process. Spring walk-throughs on the Appalachian Trail (AT) and the Mountain to Sea Trail (MST) will begin soon, the goal is to complete prior to March and the start of the AT through hikers. The three panel kiosk at Max Patch has been delayed by the federal government shutdown. This kiosk is prefabbed and all parts have been received. Trails Maintenance will be installing gravel on a portion of the MST south of the Folk Art Center. Trail Maintenance is seeking a trail easement renewal from the Nature Conservancy near Balsam Gap.

Membership – Lynn – Absent

Communication – Stuart – Stuart will reach out to Marcia Bromberg for a contact for a regional minority hiking group, and possibly pursuing a partnership.

Action Item – Reach out to Marcia for contact for regional minority hiking group (Stuart)

Next Meeting: Quarterly Council Meeting, Tuesday, April 30, 2019, Earthfare, 1856 Hendersonville Rd., Asheville, NC

Submitted by Kathy McAuley 2/11/19