

# CAROLINA MOUNTAIN CLUB (CMC)

Minutes of Council Meeting

May 9, 2017

**Council Officers:** President, Barbara Morgan; Vice President, Randy Fluharty; Treasurer, George Bauernfeind; Secretary, Paula Massey; Immediate Past President, (vacant position) Councilor for Communication, Kathy Kyle; Councilor for Councilor of Conservation, Ruth Hartzler; Councilor for 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 6:10 pm with the following councilors in attendance: Randy, George, Kay, Marcia, Ruth, Ron, Lee, and Paula. Not in attendance: Steve, Brenda, Kathy, and Tom.

Special guests: Becky Smucker, Jill Gottesman, and Herman Gucinski.

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion was approved to accept the amended minutes of the February 14, 2017 meeting was passed.

**Special Reports of Guests:** Jill Gottesman of the Wilderness Society gave an overview of the National Forests & Public Lands legislation followed by a general discussion on ways that CMC can be informed and inform members regarding current legislative proposals that impact recreation and conservation. As long as information is provided in eNews that provides a general overview and links for further information and action then it is not a violation of the not-for-profits regulations regarding lobbying; Jill has agreed to share this information with CMC.

Becky Smucker, Chair of the Nominating Committee asks that out-going council members review their respective job descriptions and provide updates/revisions as needed. She also asked that Council members communicate information or ideas for potential nominees by June 9. Requests for nominations will be sent this summer with a proposed slate presented to the Council at the October meeting.

## **Treasurer's Report:**

Barbara introduced the new Treasurer, George Bauernfeind, who she has appointed to complete the term of Treasurer as vacated with the resignation of past Treasurer. George brings a wealth of experience in financial matters, both from his professional career and his work with non-profits. General discussion of interests and background relative to CMC was shared by all council members.

A motion was made and seconded for Barbara to send a letter of appreciation to Beth Fluharty for her work as interim financial assistant until a new Treasurer was appointed. Approved. An overview of the current finances, year to date, was provided by George.

## **REPORTS, DISCUSSION AND UPDATES**

**Spring Social:** There was a surplus of \$145 for the 2017 Social; the contract has been signed and \$250 deposit made for the 2018 Spring Social at the Arboretum to lock in the current facility fee.

**Status of 100 Favorite Trails Project:** Barbara presented a report in Steve's absence; the descriptions and GPS for each hike have been completed. Steve Kemp, of GSMA, says they are now working on maps but no word on publication date.

**Operations Manual:** Barbara reported that Steve is still working on this project.

**Annual Dinner:** Randy provided an overview of this survey of possible venues with the following recommendation: That the Annual Dinner be held Monday, October 30<sup>th</sup> at the Biltmore Park Hilton. He said that moving to a Monday instead of a Friday or Saturday greatly enabled scheduling the venue as venues are increasingly booked far ahead for weekend events. After some discussion of the charge for the dinner for individuals, it was suggested that \$34 per person be charged (those paying online will pay an additional dollar to offset PayPal processing fees). It was moved, seconded, and approved that this would be the charge for the 2017 dinner. Randy said that, this being the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of the MST, the program would be about the MST. Possibly Kate Dixon, Executive Director of the FMST or Howard Lee, who proposed the trail 40 years ago, might be the speaker.

**MST In A Day:** Barbara reported that the MST in a Day Meetup sites are active, for this event on September 9. Gregory Bechtel will assist in the promotion and utilization of Meet Up to schedule hikers on the sections of MST assigned to CMC.

Barbara brought up that the club occasionally gets requests to help when a MST through hiker is needing a shuttle and possibly lodging since camping is not allowed on the BRP corridor which the trail uses in our area. Solution: when MST through hikers request overnight lodging this may be shared on the CMC Face Book page.

**CMC Bookmarks:** Barbara thanked Lynn Saul for taking on distributing the new CMC bookmarks in the community. These are being favorably received. If a re-order is needed this year, this request will come to the CMC council for review and approval as only the initial order was planned in this year's budget.

**Breaking News:** Skip Sheldon had communicated to Barbara that recent storms may have brought down trees that need to be addressed. A notice will be placed on website for hikers to report trees down on the user-friendly trail maintenance section.

## **COMMITTEES**

**Hiking:** It was reported in Brenda's absence that the third quarter hike schedule is complete.

**Education and Community Outreach:** Kay was involved with a Girl Scout celebration; youth partnership hikes continue with new children joining the challenge.

**Conservation:** Ruth reported on the status of the Stakeholders Forum for the Nantahala Pisgah Plan Revision, a multi-year collaborative process. She will notify the Council when the Forest Service posts public information on its website. She later learned that June meetings are Forum meetings, not public meetings. The Recreation Team of the Nantahala Pisgah Forest Partnership is recommending recreation be the priority for the the hwy 276 corridor. It was requested that a letter of encouragement be submitted to continue the Land and Water Conservation Fund; there was general agreement.

**Communications:** Kathy reported that Susan Canale is the new editor of eNews.

**Technology:** Marcia provided an update of the re-formatting of the website to better accommodate such devices as iPads and smart phones; this has resulted in some technological problems as well as increase in expenses from what was projected. Tim Carrigan has separated the membership from the trail maintenance section of the website.

**Membership:** Lee submitted a written report and stated that membership renewals and new members is consistent with this time last year. An increase of donations is being made in conjunction with annual dues payments.

**Maintenance:** Ron provided an update on the grant received from the BRP Foundation. One portion of the grant requires that youth participants (18 and older) who are specifically trained by the Foundation, work with some trail maintenance crews; they are working with an enthusiastic student representative, Brandon Altemose, who is recruiting college students. The spring assessment of the AT and MST continues with reports of further blow downs due to the storms. Two CPR/First Aid trainers have been recruited and currently being certified. The maintenance picnic is scheduled for September 16<sup>th</sup>. Currently the CMC maintains 92.7 miles of the AT and 150 miles of the MST.

**Meeting Adjourned** at 8:45 pm; Next Meeting August 15; Summary prepared by Paula Massey.