

## CAROLINA MOUNTAIN CLUB

### Minutes of Council Meeting

October 2, 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 pm with the following councilors in attendance: Randy, George, Paula, Kay, Marcia, Ruth, Ron, Lee, Tom, Brenda, Kathy, and Steve. Guests: Les Love, Pete Peterson, Jim Magura, Judy Magura, Lynn Saul, Debby Jones, Jan Onan, Chris Koebelin, and Gregory Bechtel

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes of the August 15, 2017 meeting. Motion carried.

### **Reports, Discussion, and Updates**

Trail Maintenance Ron and guests, Les and Pete, along with Tom, provided background information regarding implications of Pisgah National Forest Plan Revision that might include designating some current hiking trails as multi-use trails. It is a concern of the trail maintainers that trails currently being maintained by CMC will have added erosion, and therefore require additional work, if used by bikers and horses. There was general discussion by council members regarding the political sensitivity of the issue and it was proposed that the following wording be used in future positions: that CMC is concerned about the impact of maintaining multi-use trails and may elect not to maintain multi-use trails in the future. However, this position was not put to a vote. CMC advocates for the continuation of single use hiking trails.

Treasurer's Report George presented the year-to-date financial statements which present a positive, outlook for year end, and noted the savings of going to an all-electronic delivery of Let's Go. Barbara and George noted that the Trail Maintenance budget line is going to be over budget for the year by over \$1000, partly due to the purchase of T-shirts for maintainers (there will be some funds coming back in as maintainers purchase the \$15 shirts for \$10 each) and the expenses of awards given at the Trail Maintainers Picnic. Since this is a variable amount, it was suggested to reserve some funds in the future until after the amount needed for these awards is known for that year.

**Proposed 2018 Budget:** George presented a balanced 2018 budget of \$28,175 in both income and expenses, which was based on historical amounts of expected income and expenses based on input

from Council members. It includes additional funds allocated for trail maintenance as discussed in previous council meeting. Motion-It was moved and seconded to submit the proposed budget to CMC membership at the upcoming annual meeting. Motion carried.

Barbara shared that the financial review required by the By-laws would be conducted before the annual meeting so the results could be shared with the Club's membership.

Outgoing Council Members and Slate for 2018 Since this was the last time Council would meet as a group this year, Barbara thanked the outgoing Council members for their service to the club (these terms don't end till the end of the calendar year). Leaving Council are Marcia, Kay, Brenda, Lee, Steve, and Tom.

The nominating committee, chaired by Becky Smucker, submitted the following names for vote by membership at the annual meeting: Randy Fluharty, President; George Bauernfeind, Treasurer; Debby Jones, Vice President; Jan Onan, Education and Outreach; Lynn Saul, Membership; Judy Magura, Technology, Mike Fisher, Councilor at Large (to complete year two of Tom's unexpired term); and Chris Koebelin, Councilor at Large. Barbara will move to the position of Past President, and no vote is required for this. Elections will be held on October 30 during the annual meeting.

Annual Meeting Update and Draft Agenda Randy provided an update on registration (32 registered so far), including invited guests (very few to date). Barbara presented the draft agenda for Council's input. Since membership will need to approve her appointment of George to fill the vacant Treasurer position, it was decided to move the financial portion of the meeting to after elections. All documents related to the annual meeting need to be posted on eNews no later than two weeks before the meeting.

Status of Operations Manual Steve provided an outline of the manual as well as those areas that still need content submitted by respective councilor or responsible party. It was agreed that a table of contents and an index of acronyms would be included to facilitate comprehension and quick reference, although having some defined in context instead will suffice.

Steve gave an update on the 100 Favorite Hikes publication. The person Steve has been working with on this project, Steve Kemp, has retired and he is now working with Francis. While mapping is complete the descriptions of each hike are often too long for the space allowed and will have to be edited. The publisher is giving CMC the option of doing this edit process in order to have control over what is in the final product, and all agreed that we would take responsibility for that.

January Planning Session Randy announced that a planning meeting will be held with the 2018 Council members; date and place to be announced.

### **Miscellaneous Announcements**

Barbara shared that she had been in a conference call with ATC representatives and that several well-qualified applicants are being interviewed to determine who will succeed Ron Tipton (retiring) as President/CEO for ATC.

Barbara has made the following appointments for two-year terms (may be re-appointed without term limit). Historian-Stuart English has agreed to serve, replacing Rocko Smucker in this role. Chris Koebelin has agreed to serve as the Chair of the Challenge Committee, replacing Vance Mann. Barbara thanks both Rocko and Vance for their excellent service.

The third edition of the MST Trail Guide authored by Walt Weber is undergoing final mapping of new and existing trails beginning with Clingmans Dome as mile zero for the project. There was discussion, led by Les Love, of what portions of the text from editions one and two should be included in this third edition. Release date is projected for the spring, pending completion of the construction of two tunnel by-pass trails.

The Asheville Outdoor Show sponsored by Diamond Brand, was a big success with Kathy, Michael, Kay, and Barbara helping with the CMC booth. Many people stopped by the booth, and were interested both in the club's hiking opportunities and in helping with trail maintenance.

### **Committee Reports and Discussion of Issues**

Education and Community Outreach Kay and Jan reported that there are two children and one adult who have completed the Youth Partnership Challenge this year. Their names will be announced at the annual meeting and their awards given out at another function timed to accommodate minors.

Communications Kathy is currently opening a CMC Twitter account and in tracking the digital activity of the eNews. She reports that over 60% open the eNews when it is distributed by email.

Membership Lee presented a written report that showed membership at 846 totals (566 individual memberships, 262 family memberships, and 28 lifetime memberships). There were 168 new memberships. Numbers for 2017 are consistent with 2016.

Conservation Ruth stated that the comments to the Forest Service Management Plan Revision were critical and serves as the foundation for CMC work. At the last Stakeholders Forum there were 146 participants and the meeting lasted 6 ½ hours. The Wilderness Trail protection will have minimal impact on the trails within current agreement but that the trail corridors are of concern with logging. Ruth reminded Council that the reason our input is so important is that, in the future, if we (CMC) asks for something, they'll more likely say no if we did not give input on the matter as the plan is being developed.

Technology Marcia reported that the updating of the website to make it a responsive website (formatting changes to adapt to the device being used, such as smart phone vs computer) has been delayed due to personal circumstances of the web designer. Changes are ongoing in the members' section.

Hiking Brenda stated that the annual Hike Leaders Dinner will be held on February 23. She requested that CMC be the "billing agent" rather than "the individual" for the semi-annual Meetup expense. She is currently working with plans for the two-day Wilderness First Aid course.

Trail Maintenance Ron reported that crews have been working very hard clearing up the downed trees and blow downs from Hurricane Irma. According to Ron, over 500 downed trees have been cleared up by the crews. Work continues on tread repair of the MST near the MST/Craggy Garden's Visitor Center and work from Folk Art to Cravens Gap is completed. Eight "how to" videos have been completed, thanks to the efforts of Bobbi Powers and Les Love. CMC is going to be awarded the Partner of the Year by the Blue Ridge Parkway System.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Council then went into Executive Session

**Annual Meeting and Dinner, Monday, Oct 30 at the Biltmore Hilton**

**Next Council Meeting, February 2018, TBA**

Summary of Meeting – Paula Massey, 10/2/2017