

SJBCH BOD Meeting Minutes

Date: 1-8-2024 Time: 6:00 PM Place: United Methodist Church

Board Members in Attendance: John Nelson, Lisa Nelson, Rocky Day, Kelli Day, Ron Toland, Donna Fait, JoAnn Senzig, Katie Betts, Randy Betts, Jenavieve Betts, Janie Gray, Dick Ray, Gabe Candelaria, Elle Candelaria. Zoom attendance: Allan Netzer, Annie Pack, Chris Boyd.

Meeting Called to Order: John Nelson at 6:02 PM

Secretary Report: Katie Betts- November 13th, 2023 meeting minutes motion to approve by Lisa Nelson, seconded by Cabe Candelaria. All present in favor.

Treasurer Report: Allan Netzer- Lisa Nelson motioned to approve the November treasure's report; seconded by Kelli Day. All present in favor.

Trails Committee Report: Ron Toland

- On February 6th there is a scheduled meeting with Del Norte Rio Grande National Forest, Volunteer Outdoor Colorado and 3 ranger districts, to talk more about contact support, and grant processes. Rio Grande Forest is a lot more open for contracting out trail work to take care of basic trail system so we don't lose trails, we're hoping to push Rio Grande toward the contracting so we can further influence the SJ National Forest to allow for more contracts.

Membership Committee: Janie Gray

- Everyone needs to renew or they will be dropped by January 31st 2024. We're also trying to figure out who Jeff Potter is to obtain his contact information.

Social Committee:

- December 11th party was fantastic, thanks to Annie Pack.
- Annie is no longer going to be the social lead for the chapter. Annie wants to help with the treasure falls project and the Christmas party. Until we get a social committee lead, John doesn't think we should be scheduling very many social things. We need to reassess our general meetings, pot lucks, speakers, etc. until we find someone to replace Annie. Try to schedule some general meetings, 4 Corners announced that they are no longer going to be doing social rides or speakers for general meetings because it hasn't worked out for them. We still want to do these things but we need someone to lead the effort. Annie suggested quarterly meetings, Donna thinks we'll lose the membership if we don't do monthly meetings. Lisa states our next meeting should be very focused. Membership meeting, will be February 19th planned by Katie Betts. Meeting will focus on the needs of chapter, goals for 2024.

Fund Raising:

- Ron Toland is applying for a grant from LPEA, Ron is going to put in for \$2,500. Ron is also going to pitch to the Rotary Club within the next couple of weeks. The need for fundraising is still present, Ron is going to keep pushing to raise additional funds that will be fundamental to our plans for 2024.

- Dick Ray suggested a brochure for accomplishments and records of what we've completed in print, tabloid, or flyer form to communicate what we've done with our donated dollars, something that is updated periodically. This should contain Donna's volunteer info, Ron's trail info as well as the photos we've contributed could be used to compile this information.
- Chris mentioned other groups have set up informational booths at Ski and Bow Rack and received several hundred of dollars of donations from hunters

Communication Report: Lisa

- Lisa will be getting a story from Donna about our volunteer hours from 2023 for the Newsletter.

Volunteer Report: Donna

- 2023 volunteer hours, 1487 hours, 4900 miles driven, 77 total equipment hours, 114 stock days. \$73,485 was the value our volunteer work.

Old Business:

- 2023-2024 focus on solidifying our board, which we've done.
- Trail work will be discussed throughout the year, trail conditions and access.
- Liability Insurance and our exposure, Ron Toland, spoke to an insurance agent here in town and spoke with Mark Himmel president of BCHA about this today, he isn't aware of anyone that has a liability policy. There is no precedence for the insurance policy. There is no BOD in the Nation that has insurance. In discussion, the majority of our activities will be covered under our membership or the Forest Service. The need is to communicate with the Forest Service what trails you're going to be on before you go, then you'll be covered under Forest Service insurance, if not your personal coverage would cover you. People need to be aware that they need to be wearing PPE in order to be covered under the forest service. We need to educate the members, have proper certifications, waivers signed, etc. Dick Ray states PATC recently purchased BOD insurance and they don't have as much exposure as we do. Suggestion was made to contact an attorney to tell us truly what our risk might be instead of discussing it with an insurance agent. Gabe is going to reach out to his attorney to see if they would be willing to have a pro bono conversation in regards to any liability. It is believed that you cannot sue yourself, so if you're a member of the club, you cannot sue the club. 2017 Volunteer protection act is also notable.
- On November 17th the board needed to take an online vote and approved \$125 to be paid to fix the website. In addition, there was an additional funds needed for the website. Vote for a total of \$300 to fix the website, which was Approved by the board. Zoom renewal was previously approved by the board and was renewed for the year.
- Key openings within the chapter that need filled.

New Business:

- Last November, Ron and John were on a Zoom meeting for Back County Horseman of Colorado. Discussions included what they would like local chapters to focus on. 4 corners BCH is no longer going to run the La Plata tack sale, it'll be run by the 4H group with assistance from BCH. Nationally, BCH is talking about an increase to dues of \$5 to \$10. BCHA focuses on Washington, with a paid lobbyist which these dues will help pay for. The group asked for a brief summary of accomplishments at the BCH state meeting and Ron feels like we

blew them away with our slideshow of accomplishments. Booth at the Horse Expo in Denver as part of the stock show. Education about what it takes to be part of a state board member and national board member. SJ BCH is supposed to have a state representative, John and Ron have been filling in for this. There hasn't been anyone actually assigned for this recently.

- John has been approached by a couple of folks to get outfitter guides more involved. Concerns that some of the outfitter guides with forest service communication, the direction things are going in the stock world and how it effects SJ BCH and outfitter guides. Suggestions to get together and talk with the outfitter guides. Outfitter trails can't be used without the system trails. John recommends initially getting together with the outfitter guides. Dick and John are working together on this.

- Dick Ray wanted to mention Jason Ward passed away, he owned Wolf Creek outfitters.

- Colorado Conservation Alliance has a legal action against Parks and Wildlife in regards to their releasing wolves in Colorado while having an incomplete plan to reintroduce the wolves, it is currently scheduled to be in federal court January 30, 2024.

-Mike Lenoard will be at the Stratton Hotel Cowboy Poets on January 16th from 10 am to 3 pm. This event is an ongoing event every other Tuesday.

- Gabe Candelaria would like to sponsor an annual SJ BCH membership in order to grow the club with a 4H family or anyone else interested in joining. It was also suggested also pulling in a business to sponsor memberships.

-John asked Jenavieve and Elle if they have any ideas to recruit young people, how can we expand. Ron suggested trail clearing to the horse camp on the Rio Grande side. Kelli says pick a lake to maybe go fishing, camping, clear trails around it to go fish. Next meeting we'll add in some time to further discuss and come up with a plan to put something in place for this summer for Jenavieve and Elle. Jenavieve wants to ensure we're bringing in kids from all age groups.

- We need to obtain and share email addresses for the Forest Service to members so they are able to communicate trips within in the forest.

Next Meeting: February 19th, 2024 United Methodist Church

Motion to adjourn: 7:49 PM by Katie Betts, Kelli Day 2nd.

