

Southwest Forest Service Amigos

Minutes of the Board Meeting

September 17, 2024

ZOOM MEETING

0900-0955

Attending:

Emily Irwin

Cyndie Hogg

Dan Winner

Jan Polasky

Mike Arias

Randy Daniels

Sandra Roberts

ADMINISTRATIVE:

Minutes June 2024:

Jan Polasky moved to approve as corrected.

Cyndie Hogg seconded the motion.

FISCAL UPDATE:

Randy sent out an email to all of the board members regarding the budget. The current overall balance is \$6,873.00 with part of that in cash. Cash flow is down \$272.00.

Software and internet costs are up \$8.71 with no apparent reason why. **Cyndie will send a note to Joel Johnstone to find out why the increase in the webhosting. Joel is the contact for the webhosting* The picnic expenses were around \$200.00, but \$290.00 was collected at the picnic. *We are ahead about \$70.00.*

The luncheon expenses were \$220.00. Four newsletters were returned.

Cyndie Hogg moved to approve the fiscal report.

Sandra Roberts seconded the motion.

**Corrections in italics sent by Cyndie Hogg.*

NEWSLETTER EDITOR POSITION:

Sandra has been the newsletter editor for thirteen years and is ready to retire from that position. She has not been able to find anyone interested in taking it over. She feels that the job of newsletter editor requires someone newer and younger. Jan questioned whether we should do the newsletter twice a year instead of four times a year. Sandra suggested that we could try three times a year. Randy stated that reducing the mailout to twice a year would alienate current and future members as at least half of the current members only buy into the membership for the newsletter. Dan feels that we will lose members if we cut the issues down on the newsletter. *No decision on how many newsletters/year was decided upon. It was also decided not to address this with the members at large until we see if a newsletter editor to replace Sandra steps up.*

**Jan Polasky* asked Sandra if she would be willing to stay if she didn't have to do as many newsletters. Emily Irwin stated that she felt that Sandra would like to be retired from the newsletter and that we should advertise or blitz for someone new in the next two to three months, stating that Sandra is going to retire from that position. Maybe that would prompt someone else to pick up that position.

Dan suggested the possibility of an assistant editor to help Sandra out until they could learn and feel comfortable taking over the position. Sandra stated that she would be willing to take on an assistant if they would be willing to take over the position from her in a set amount of time.

Jan also mentioned doing less newsletters. Cyndie Hogg said that we need to take a hard line about Sandra retiring from that position.

Jan asked Emily to write a piece for the newsletter regarding the position. Cyndie suggested posting the position on the Amigo's website and on Facebook. Emily agreed with this plan. Emily will also send out an email regarding the position, and ask all board members to reach out personally.

Sandra will be stepping down in January. She stated that she is willing to do a transition period with a new editor.

**Correction submitted by Cyndie Hogg*

OSO CORREDOR TRAIL:

Lou Romero is stepping down from the trail adoption on the Sandia Ranger District that has been adopted for about the last ten years. Dave Cummings and Pat Jackson have agreed to take this on. Pat is taking the volunteer agreement into the SO to process signatures with the forest. Dave and Pat are planning to hike the Oso Corredor trail on September 24 to check on its current condition. They will meet with Lou Romero later that day to meet the district folks and

find out where the work tools are stored. They will set up the actual workday in later October, sometime after the 20th.

ZOOM #2

1000-1055

ATTENDING: SAME AS BEFORE

1905 CLUB:

Emily held a discussion regarding donating to the National Museum to meet the \$1905.00 goal. In the spring, Emily sent an email. At that time the gap was around \$600.00. This fall, at the picnic, Marlin had gotten one 1905 donation. A second donation has been made and he is waiting to see what the gap is now. Cyndie and Carolyn agreed that there is no need to send more. Jan suggested that we should give \$100.00 so that our name, Amigos, gets recognition as a supporter. Cyndie, Mike, Sandra and Randy agreed with that amount.

Jan Polasky moved to give \$100.00 to the 1905 Project.
Mike Arias seconded that motion.

Randy will send a check to Marlin with an email from Emily attached.

PICNIC REVIEW:

Carolyn stated a concern that the workload needs to be more evenly distributed. Randy stated that he is okay with his workload, but help with cleanup would be good. Cyndie said it was a great picnic with lots of fun and lots of people and we should keep the picnic going. *Sandra* agreed.

BOXES TO MUSEUM:

Jan now has all the boxes to take to the museum in Missoula. Emily has a book she wants to add to the collection for the museum, titled "Amigos Remembered." Several board members also had a copy of the book. Jan said she would share her book with the new newsletter editor. Sandra is going to check to see if there is an e-file of this book. She also stated she occasionally uses excerpts from the book for the newsletter.

NEW MEMBERSHIP:

Per Mike, there is not much action, only a couple of new members that were sponsored. He will get the spreadsheet done by September 30. Letters to new members need to be sent. Randy told Mike that he sent him an email regarding the returned letters. Cyndie sent out postcards in

June and July to members whose newsletters were being rejected. Mike will get caught up on the dues. Sandra will put a notice in the next newsletter about the dues going up to \$20.00. Emily started an open discussion but there was so much to discuss that we held off for Zoom meeting #3.

ZOOM #3

1100 - 1140

ATTENDING:

Emily Irwin
Mike Arias

Cyndie Hogg
Randy Daniels

Jan Polasky
Sandra Roberts.

OPEN DISCUSSION:

CALENDAR:

September 18 - Train trip to Pete's
October 16 - Train trip to Thomasita's
October 24 - Amigo's luncheon
November 20 - Train trip to Pete's

Randy stated that Maria's might be another option to Pete's. Sandra said that maybe there could be a switch in January from Pete's to Maria's.

Per Emily, should the December 11 board meeting be virtual and/or in person?

The Board anticipates three vacancies in 2025; Secretary, Newsletter Editor, and Vice-President. This fall board members need to actively recruit and try to secure replacements for these positions, through emails, phone calls, website, Facebook, etc.. A slate of nominees should be brought forward in November/December at the board meeting. During the All Members Meeting in January 2025 the slate of new board members will be voted on and approved.

This fall board members need to actively recruit for these positions. Send email to members about vacancies and what each vacancy role entails, i.e. a job description. Jan asked how the nominee's positions are given out. Cyndie stated that we ask for interest in certain positions. Jan said we should invite all Amigo's members to the January meeting in order to garner interest and then have a hybrid meeting in January.

The meeting in January *will* be Wednesday, January 15, at 10:00 am MST and will be kept to one hour. Jan will reach out to the Museum to see if we can use their Zoom account for that meeting.

Sandra asked Emily to include her name, phone number and email address in the email to Amigo's members so that they can call and ask her questions about the newsletter editor position.

Meeting adjourned.