

ATA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Saturday, July 16, 2016

The McMillan Restaurant, 2 Historic Route 66, Flagstaff, AZ 86001

Board members present: Rob Mason, Larry Snead, Bernie Stalman, Jan Hancock, Jeff Whitney, Ambika Balasubramanian, Denis Ryan, Ben Murphy, C.W. Payne, Todd Sadow, Steve Anderson

Board members present telephonically: Fred Gaudet

Board members absent: Lirain Urreiztieta, Susan Lagerman

Staff members present: Matthew Nelson, Executive Director; Aaron Seifert, GIS Director

Guests present: Laura White, USFS AZNST Administrator; Julie Molzahn, USFS Special Projects Manager; Jim McFadden, Arizona Trail Days Event Manager; John Matteson, Regional Steward.

NO.	DESCRIPTION	ACTION ITEMS
1	<p><u>Call to Order & Welcome to Board Members and Guests</u></p> <p>Meeting was called to order by President Rob Mason, and Rob introduced Jim McFadden who invited all Board members to the upcoming Arizona Trail Days Event at Buffalo Park in Flagstaff on September 10, 2016. A quorum of Board members was in attendance.</p> <p>Matt Nelson complimented Mr. McFadden and his wife for the outstanding planning and success they have achieved at past events and thanked them for their outstanding volunteer work to produce such a well-attended and well-organized event on behalf of the ATA.</p> <p>Aaron Seifert also expressed his accolades for the great, successful events that Mr. and Ms. McFadden have planned for hundreds of attendees and exhibitors in the past.</p> <p>Rob Mason and Matt Nelson also expressed appreciation to the McMillan Restaurant for hosting our Board meeting and making all of the lunch arrangements.</p>	<p>Board members are encouraged to attend the Flagstaff Arizona Trails Day event at Buffalo Park on September 10, 2016.</p>
2	<p><u>Approval of Minutes from April 16, 2016 Board of Directors Meeting</u></p> <p>Jan Hancock provided copies of the minutes to Board members prior to the meeting, and the Board was asked for any additions or corrections, and Rob Mason offered a few corrections to the minutes from the last meeting, which Jan recorded.</p> <p>Steve Anderson made a motion to approve the minutes with the edits noted and Larry Snead seconded the motion. Minutes were approved, as amended, unanimously.</p>	<p>Jan Hancock to make corrections in April 16, 2016 minutes.</p>
4	<p>Laura White, UFSS AZNST Administrator introduced Julie Molzahn, a contracted Forest Service Lands Specialist who will be assisting Laura with the AZNST Comprehensive Plan. Julie provided a brief summary of her background and experience assisting the Nez Pearce National Historic Trail</p>	<p>Provide any information and input to Laura White and Julie Molzahn they could add to the</p>

	<p>with their Comprehensive Plan and she also worked in Washington DC on NEPA and National Trails rights-of-way programs and processes. Laura’s report is attached to these minutes.</p> <p>There were several discussions about the minimum 1,500-foot right-of-way (management) corridors and land acquisition planning.</p> <p>Todd Sadow asked about the process being followed for our AZNST Plan, and Laura explained there are multiple steps in the process: <u>Focus on defining the existing conditions, nature and purposes statement.</u> The Forest Service Chief and all agencies review this document There will be gaps in the goals, practices, and objectives noted A Preferred Action Plan will result from this process, and the AZNST will be the main driver for this part of the process There will be national, regional, agency and public processes and approvals NEPA will be a part of these processes, as well as consultation with the 23 tribal nations in the state. An Advisory council is to be established, with 10-year minimum tenure, which has more broad legislative requirements and this group will have a lot of opportunity for input. However, the AZNST will have a different model wherein the Advisory Council will report to the Secretary of Agriculture and the USDA Forest Chief and other chiefs from BLM, NPS on lands they managed along the AZNST route. Fred Gaudette represents the ATA Board of Directors in this process. Matt Nelson asked Board members to help provide any input Laura or Julie needs and that information can be forwarded to her through Matt Nelson.</p>	<p>AZNST Comprehensive Management Plan.</p> <p>If Board members have any suggestions for the Comprehensive Management Plan Advisory Council members, please let Laura and Julie know.</p>
4	<p>A written report is attached that delineates the Trail Operations Committee and Executive Director’s Recommendations for Redefining the AZT Passage Boundaries, with detailed descriptions for Passage changes. There were several Board members who asked that we cover each passage separately to make decisions about our recommendations.</p> <p>There were concerns voiced by Shawn Redfield and others about the existing trail ratings that have already been designated for all 43 passages, and others who recommended if passage redesignating changes need to be made, it would be best to make changes now before the Management Plan documents are submitted for review. Some online HikeAZ.com members also weighed in with comments, and our ATA Operations Committee also looked at this issue from the trail user’s perspective.</p> <p>Laura White noted that the original Segments and Passages are already part of the existing Intergovernmental Agreement. Several mentioned the Arizona Trail guidebook and maps would have to be changed, and it was</p>	<p>Follow up on the Passage boundary decisions that still need to be made.</p> <p>Aaron to work on the mapping for the changed passages, and Matt to inform our land management agencies about these changes. Trail Operations and the Trail Director to work on placement of the signage directing AZT users to either the Flagstaff Urban Trail System (FUTS) or to the</p>

<p>noted a new edition with added and updated information is underway. Aaron Seifert noted all of the mapping/GIS data has been developed and saved electronically and would be very simple to adjust to newly defined passages.</p> <p>Passage 9 – Following a brief discussion about the feasibility of moving the beginning and end of this passage, Jan Hancock made a motion to approve the AZT recommended redesignation of the passage beginning at the Saguaro National Park boundary (instead of Hope Camp) and ending at Redington Road (instead of Italian Trap), seconded by Steve Anderson and the motion carried.</p> <p>A motion to approve the redesignation of Passage 11 to end at Marshall Gulch Trailhead (instead of Romero Pass) was made by Steve Anderson, seconded by Ambika B., and approved unanimously.</p> <p>A recommendation to redesignate the boundary access points for Passage numbers 16 and 17 was discussed, and Fred Gaudet made a motion to maintain the two separate passages as they exist now. Larry Snead seconded the motion and it was unopposed for approval. No changes will be made to Passages 16 or 17.</p> <p>The Passage 23 discussion recommended a redesignated passage change to an access point at Red Hills Trail junction due to fire damage obliterating a section of the AZT route on the North Peak Trail near The Park. Fred Gaudet made a motion to make this change, seconded by Steve Anderson, and motion passed with no opposition. Passage 23 will now end at the Red Hills Trail junction (with access to City Creek Trailhead).</p> <p>Passages 25 and 26 were discussed, and two issues noted were the number of AZT miles that would be changed with a recommended reroute, and how the combined passages would affect the number of passages (reduce from 43 down to 42 passages). For organizational purposes it is important to maintain a total of 43 passages since that is within AZNST documentation and 43 passages has been used on all signs and promotional materials.</p> <p>Larry Snead asked what would be gained to combine the passages after the reroute, as the miles are within the boundaries of the same land manager. Larry asked to be able to review maps and further discuss the proposal at a later date. It was determined to make no changes to these passages at this time, so no vote was necessary.</p> <p>Passages 31-33 were discussed, with no changes recommended in by the Board for Passage 33, which is the route originally designated by Dale Shewalter for the primary AZT route through Flagstaff. Ben asked why the</p>	<p>equestrian bypass route.</p>
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<p>AZT was split in Flagstaff. Jan reported the equestrian “bypass” route was added to provide a safer, unpaved trail surface for equestrians to access the passages on the San Francisco Peaks segments and equestrian’s horses and mules are not permitted on the paved and unpaved sections of the Flagstaff Urban Trails system (FUTS) which is the AZT link in the urban area of Flagstaff .</p> <p>Splitting Passage 30 (or 34) was considered by the Board if Passages 25 and 26 are combined into one. Passage 30 and 34 are the longest and could be divided into two Passages, which would keep the total number of passages at 43, which are desirable for both planning and historical/organization reasons.</p> <p>The Board deferred the decision back to the Trail Operations Committee and the Executive Director and asked them to bring their recommendations back to the Board for developing a potential 25 and 25A passage, and whether to split passages 30 and 34.</p> <p>Aaron Seifert said he would provide mapping for our decision and would send this out to the Board for review, and Shawn Redfield will also provide input for a proposed route and passages.</p> <p>There was a group discussion regarding the term “trailhead” and how the term should only be used where there is reasonable vehicular access. For other places where a passage ends but there is no access, the term “access point” should be used. There was also discussion about whether the Arizona Trail should focus on the northbound orientation for the maps, signage and databook for the trail user who may want to use the AZT going southbound and how to provide this mapping mileage to users. Ben Murphy asked which mileage numbers are shown on the trails signs, and where, i.e. on one side only.</p> <p>Jan Hancock asked how other long distance trails handled this, and she also noted that the original direction that when Dale Shewalter established the AZT route he was traveling south to north, and that the original Board of Directors (along with Phyllis Ralley, who was also designing graphics and marketing materials for the Arizona Trail) determined it would be best to duplicate what the Pacific Crest Trail had established (south to north) from Mexico to Canada.</p> <p>Larry Snead made a motion to table the decision on the signage, and other passage recommendations with no decisions, until more information can be gathered and presented. Ambika B. seconded the motion, and the motion carried with two opposed.</p> <p>Rob Mason asked that we notify all of our land manager partners of our</p>	
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	<p>Board’s AZT Passages recommendations, and also asked when we would do this. Matt Nelson agreed to follow up with all of the land managers at the appropriate time when we had our recommendations completed.</p> <p>Laura White noted that the AZNST Legislative Map included both the Flagstaff city route as well as the equestrian bypass in the legislation. Aaron Seifert confirmed that the map originally had 816 miles and 43 passages. He said it would be a very large process to change the 800.8 mile total length of the AZNST to something much less if the equestrian bypass were removed from the total AZNST route.</p> <p>Fred Gaudet noted that the Continental Divide Trail provided two alternative ways to hike the trail and they have established two official finish lines through signage.</p> <p>Ben noted there would be an issue regarding signage to clarify the two AZNST routes that loop in the Flagstaff area.</p> <p>Ben Murphy made a motion to provide clear signage for the equestrian bypass route and leave the equestrian bypass route as is, and the motion was seconded by Ambika B. Motion passed.</p>	
5	<p><u>AZNST Mitigation Recommendations</u></p> <p>The Board was asked for comments regarding the ATA’s draft EIS comments for Asarco’s tailings and mining operations that would affect the Arizona NST, which brought about a more broad Board discussion on mitigation recommendations. Matt Nelson asked how ATA/AZNST should mitigate and be compensated for these types of expenditures and asked for the Board’s recommendations.</p> <p>It was suggested that powerlines and changed trail and trailhead locations, and any other changes forced upon the AZNST by mining companies such as Resolution Copper, ASARCO, etc. or any other entities, should be part of an economic impact study on communities in the area of the AZNST, and that ATA should request an endowment fund for long-term trail maintenance to help mitigate the loss of scenic resources and protect the trail corridor in these locations in perpetuity.</p> <p>The Board of Directors recommended that ATA should draft a Board Resolution that covers all of the detrimental impacts that could occur in making changes to the AZNST. It should also include a monitor from ATA, compensated through the endowment, to develop a paid position in ATA to monitor any impacts to the AZNST....this would include starting with high level partners such as AZ Game & Fish, Forest Service/Land Managers (more fire monitoring stations), who would oversee the construction and maintenance of any changes in the AZNST by others, following the “sustainability” mission of the ATA.</p> <p>Develop a GIS-based Environmental Independent Survey and Research</p>	<p>Rob, Matt, and Steve to begin the scope for developing a GIS-based Environmental Independent Survey and Research Committee for studying potential impacts to the AZT and also help develop a draft Board Resolution for the process of managing the mitigation actions recommended to address impacts to the AZT.</p>

	<p>Committee that could follow and track potential AZNST impacts and fund them. The Trail Research Committee could regularly bring more detailed information to the ATA Board of Directors.</p> <p>Funds for mitigation should be designated as unrestricted dollars for statewide use. Ambika B. and Todd S. suggested we find an ASU or another university intern, SCORP, or other individual to monitor the research and economic impact studies related to the ASNST.</p> <p>Bernie noted the Appalachian Trail had a model for this type of monitoring we could use to develop our own.</p> <p>It was noted that it would be important to remember many of these decisions, impacts, and mitigations could be as many as 10 years away, and things like mining tailings could move.</p> <p>Rob Mason, Todd Sadow, and Steve Anderson agreed to move forward and develop a scope for a way to develop a Trail Research Committee, establish the costs associated with this, and suggest ways to create a “trail monitor” position and ask the mining companies or others creating impacts, such as utility companies, to fund this program.</p> <p>To provide the sustainability oversight required for the AZNST, this program/position would need to name the impacts and mitigation factors (measures to be used, etc.) for enforcement purposes.</p> <p>The Arizona State Land Department would potentially oppose this type of oversight on lands that are managed through AZNST easements.</p> <p>The discussion ended with an agreement that Rob, Todd, and Steve would work on this impacts mitigation issue and bring a draft for Board review whenever they could compile this preliminary information.</p>	
6	LUNCH – Provided by The McMillan Restaurant	
7	<p><u>Financial Report</u></p> <p>C.W. Payne provided a summary on the financial reports provided to Board members electronically prior to the Board meeting. He reported that the organization is right where it should be on its budget and noted that expenditures were effectively being managed by Matt and the staff to keep the organization on track financially for the last half of the calendar year.</p> <p>Matt Nelson added that he had provided additional financial information and fundraising details in his Executive Director’s report. There being no questions from the Board, the financial report provided by C.W. Payne will be filed for audit.</p>	
8	<p><u>Executive Director’s Report</u></p> <p>Matt Nelson provided a detailed report and identified several significant successful fundraising grants and contributions for the ATA’s programs and operations that had been received:</p> <p>“Seeds of Stewardship” program received a commitment of \$15,000 from Resolution Copper for programs in the Copper Corridor</p> <p>REI contributed \$25,000 to ATA for its 2016 programs.</p>	Jan to give Matt a copy of the Beverly Sass ATA news article from the past.

	<p>Cox Communications awarded ATA \$5,000 for Shawn Redfield’s volunteer work for ATA, and Matt encouraged everyone to go online and “vote for Shawn” to help support an additional \$5,000 as a follow-up opportunity for adding to this first grant amount.</p> <p>Matt noted a significant \$5,000 donation check had been received from Beverly Sass, and he wanted to know if anyone knew her. Jan Hancock noted that Beverly Sass was an extremely active ATA volunteer for many, many years and was always there to do anything to support our trail building and maintenance work, office needs, product sales, and more. Matt will invite Beverly to our ATA Annual Meeting and may put an article about her in our newsletter. (Jan agreed to give Matt a copy of a news article about Beverly that was written in an ATA newsletter many years ago.)</p> <p>Arizona State Parks awarded a \$79,000 grant from the Federal Highway Administration’s Recreational Trails Program annual grants program. These dollars will fund the Washington Park/Colonel Devin Trail reconstruction project south of Forest Road 300; the State Parks Board just approved the award of this grant so the project scheduled for spring of 2017 can begin.</p> <p>The State of Arizona Legislature State Statute funding (\$150,000) for the Arizona Trail State Fund was reactivated through the help of Lyn White, after years of non-funding this legislation. Matt explained that these funds are departmentally delegated to the Arizona Trail through Arizona State Parks and that the way these funds are to be used is still being determined.</p> <p>Several Board members offered comments that signaled they felt it was important to follow the intent of the Arizona Trail State Fund legislation and have these Legislature funds be utilized where they were needed most. Shawn Redfield noted that these dollars could also be used for things like bridges, NEPA studies,</p> <p>Matt also reported on significant funds that are not received by ATA but benefit many Arizona Trail projects. These projects total more than \$700,000 in agency and corporate funding and are detailed in Matt’s Executive Director Report (see attached).</p> <p>Matt also reported progress underway on the USFS Comprehensive Management Plan, and he announced some of the ATA upcoming Special Events, new Conservation Corps Partnerships, and a national protection of the Arizona Trail Trademarks and Logos (these were trademarked in Arizona only previously, through the Secretary of State’s office).</p>	
9	<p><u>AZT Day Event – September 9-11, 2016:</u></p> <p>Jim McFadden invited all Board members and their families to attend the upcoming AZT Day event at Buffalo Park in Flagstaff. This has become a very large and successful event that draws hundreds of people from throughout Arizona and other states. The event will feature:</p> <p>A special presentation to remember Dale Shewalter at 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>Raffle prizes, live band, food, and many exhibits from our ATA business</p>	

	<p>and organizational partners</p> <p>Orpheum Theatre showing of “Almost Sunrise” film about the healing effect of hiking for veterans participating in Warrior Hikes</p> <p>Sabrina Carlson will be helping with organizing the event, and there will be Seeds of Stewardship and “Gear Up” fund raisers.</p>	
10	<p><u>Staff & Programs Reports</u></p> <p>Please see the attached detailed reports from the Trail Director; GIS Director’s Report; Gateway Communities Report; Volunteer Program Report; Natural Restoration’s event flyer; Membership Report; and Seeds of Stewardship Program Report.</p>	
11	<p><u>Other Business:</u></p> <p>There were several miscellaneous items of business discussed, including:</p> <p>BLM has allocated \$70,000 for Youth Corps trail work on the AZT</p> <p>Treven Hooker took Rebecca’s place in the Seeds of Stewardship outdoor environmental education program for Southern Arizona</p> <p>There is a low retention rate for ATA members whose membership has expired and a new approach may need to be initiated.</p> <p>Ambika asked the Board to recognize all the awesome work that Shawn Redfield has given as a volunteer for ATA and would like our Board to begin to develop a succession plan that would include funding when Shawn retires from his position and that we should have someone work/walk with Shawn to develop the deep understanding that Shawn has for all the segments on the AZT.</p> <p>It was suggested that Shawn’s work is actually bigger than one person could manage and that we should consider breaking up all of the things he does, develop an implementation plan, identify gaps, and start with finding an intern for some of the roles.</p> <p>Ambika, Matt, and Shawn agreed to develop some action steps to help get started on this transition/succession plan. Matt has been vetting some potential candidates for this transition plan.</p> <p>Bernie Stallman noted that the AZT needs to expand awareness in the Sierra Vista area, and he said he has ADOT signs in his garage that need to be installed, and suggested having an AZT Day event in March 2017 and a Crest Trail work event to help maintain that section of the AZT. He also noted there was a Southern Region ADOT permits person who could work with the Sierra Vista Public Works Director, Richard LaPierre.</p> <p>Denis Ryan suggested ATA encourage auto-renew of memberships through credit card/PayPal to keep recurring annual membership to help reduce dropped memberships.</p> <p>Bernie Stallman suggested offering members to pay ½ of their membership dues, limited to a special category of people.</p>	<p>Ambika, Matt and Shawn to develop a draft Trail Director succession plan.</p> <p>Research the best ways to encourage repeating the auto-payment of membership in ATA.</p> <p>Determine who could work with Bernie Stallman on the ADOT Gateway signs installation in Sierra Vista and help plan a work event on the Crest Trail passage of the AZT in the Huachuca Mountains.</p> <p>Debbie Thorman to work with Bernie Stallman to see how any reduced membership fees could be managed and prepare feasibility report for the Board.</p>
12	<p><u>Future Meetings and Other Important Dates</u></p> <p>September 9-11 – AZT Days in Flagstaff, 10:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Board members mark calendars for upcoming</p>

	<p>September 17th – Peppersauce Roundup in Oracle Next quarterly Board of Directors meeting will be held on Saturday, October 22, 2016 at the Oracle Inn in Oracle Watch for an announcement of a showing next year of “Fire on the Rim” film around September 17, 2017</p>	<p>meeting dates and events.</p>
<p>13</p>	<p><u>Adjourn</u> There being no further business, Jan Hancock made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Steve Anderson, and the meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.</p>	