

Arizona Trail Association

Annual Members Meeting

South Mountain Park Environmental Education Center

Phoenix, AZ

February 4, 2017

| ITEM | DESCRIPTION | ACTION STEPS |
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| 1 | Call to Order and Welcome: President Rob Mason called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m. and welcomed all attendees. | |
| 2 | Opening Address: Luther Propst, renowned for his work in landscape conservation and for encouraging economic prosperity through the outdoor recreation industry, provided a very well received keynote presentation to the completely full room of ATA members and guests in attendance. As the founder of the Sonoran Institute in 1991, he has expanded the Tucson-based organization into multiple states and is considered one of the leaders in the West's smart growth and sustainability movements. His message inspired all in attendance. | |
| 3 | Approval of Minutes: President Mason asked Board Secretary Jan Hancock for a report on the minutes from the Annual Meeting held February 6, 2016, and following a request to dispense with reading the minutes, a motion to approve the minutes was made by Bernie Stallman and seconded by Phyllis Ralley. The minutes were approved unanimously. | Minutes will be posted on the ATA website. |
| 4 | Call for Ballots: Attendees were asked if there were any more votes that had not been collected in the ballot box when attendees arrived, and one more ballot was submitted. Ballots collected the day of the Annual Meeting were counted by ATA administrative assistant Debbie Thornton, and two ATA members, and the tally will be added to all mail-in and emailed-in votes sent prior to the Members Meeting, with tracking for one vote per member by Debbie. | Ballot count to be submitted to the President for the announcement of election results following lunch. |
| 5 | Executive Director's 2016 Accomplishments Report: Matt Nelson provided a comprehensive summary of ATA's many successes and accomplishments achieved throughout the past year, and he recognized the dedication of all the ATA members, volunteers, and supporters who made these significant accomplishments possible. Matt also noted ATA's growth in financial success with its corporate partners. | |

ATA – Minutes of Annual Meeting of Members, February 4, 2017

Respectfully Submitted by Jan Hancock, Board Secretary

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| 6 | <p>Financial and Membership Report: C.W. Payne provided a summarized 2016 financial report, metrics and graphics that demonstrated a continuous growth in the organization's finances and membership dues, grants, agency support, business partnerships, and ATA store product sales. A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was made by Jan Hancock and seconded by Denis Ryan, and will be filed for audit.</p> | Financial report will be filed for audit. |
| 7 | <p>Trail Director's Report: ATA Trail Director Shawn Redfield, Volunteer Coordinator Wendy Lotze, and Assistant Trail Director Zach MacDonald provided a summary and well-illustrated PowerPoint slide presentation report, which featured many before and after photos of the quality of the trail work that had been accomplished over 2016. A major push for trail maintenance was managed year-round after many trail crews were put into action in multiple locations requiring trail maintenance work, gate installations, and trail reroutes that were completed in many Arizona Trail locations across the state. Wendy expressed her appreciation for the dedication of all the Segment Stewards and hundreds of volunteer trail workers who supported all the trail crew projects and events throughout the state.</p> | |
| 8 | <p>Seeds of Stewardship Report: Sabrina Carlson and Treven Hooker provided a summarized report on a variety of youth environmental education projects undertaken with many of the community schools that were participating in the Seeds of Stewardship program throughout the past year statewide. This program is partially funded through the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust and she acknowledged how this support has brought about so much success to this important ATA program for so many Arizona youth. Thousands of Arizona Trail Junior Explorer Handbooks have been completed by the program participants, as well as many students from across the nation who complete the handbooks online. Students who complete the program receive a certificate of completion and an ATA patch.</p> | |
| 9 | <p>Arizona National Scenic Trail Administrator's Report: Laura White, USDA Forest Service AZNST Administrator, provided a summary of the progress being made on the many sections of the Management Plan that are being completed. She was able to apply some funds to the process and has had some administrative assistance as well. She feels the Management Plan is moving along well and she is in the process of re-establishing the required Advisory Council as well. She asked for suggestions from ATA members as this process moves forward.</p> | |
| 10 | <p>Looking Ahead: Matt Nelson presented a promising vision for 2017 and beyond for the Arizona National Scenic Trail, as well as the steady healthy growth in ATA membership, business partner support, and exciting new youth and more trail user event activities that will continue to expand awareness and expand the environmental adventure offered by the Arizona Trail.</p> | |

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| 11 | <p>Volunteers & Special Recognitions: Jan Hancock and Larry Snead presented special recognition plaques to the following deserving individuals for their special support of the Arizona Trail Association in 2016: Larry Snead, Roger Smith, Elizabeth Wheeler, Mila Besich-Lira, Sean Murphy, Matt Roberts, Mark Loseth and Eric Hiser.</p> <p>Phyllis Ralley presented a special “Story Teller” tribute to ATA’s Trail Director, Shawn Redfield, for his untiring statewide leadership and volunteer commitment to the maintenance and constant improvements in the 800-mile route of the Arizona National Scenic Trail.</p> | |
| 12 | <p>Lunch: The meeting Lunch Break was from 12 noon – 12:40 p.m. Box Lunches were provided by Wildflower Bread Company.</p> | |
| 13 | <p>Members Comments and Questions: President Eric Hiser asked members to provide any comments and ask any questions regarding the programs and activities of the Association. Several questions of a general nature were answered by ATA staff.</p> | |
| 14 | <p>Election of Board Members: Rob Mason called for the results of the Board Member elections, and the following individuals were elected: newest member Susan Lagerman, and return members re-elected to second terms were Denis Ryan and C.W. Payne.</p> | Officers of the Board comprising the Executive Committee will be elected by the Directors at the next ATA Board of Directors meeting. |
| 15 | <p>Sharing the Trail with Rattlesnakes: Bryan Hughes provided an outstanding exhibit of many species of rattlesnakes found in Arizona and provided some valuable environmental education information and a presentation titled “<i>Sharing the Trail with Rattlesnakes</i>” for all of the ATA members and guests in attendance.</p> | |
| 16 | <p>Raffle Drawings and Closing Remarks: Rob Mason conducted a lively drawing for some great Arizona Trail Association donated raffle prizes, some new items being offered by the ATA Store, and from some of ATA’s generous business partners.</p> | |
| 19 | <p>There being no further new business or discussion, Rob Mason called for a motion to adjourn the Members Meeting. Motion to adjourn was made by Jan Hancock and seconded by Denis Ryan. The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m. and members were encouraged to enjoy the extensive trail system offered within South Mountain Park.</p> | |