

**Arizona Trail Association Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
April 21, 2018
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
REI Co-op Distribution Center, Goodyear**

Board Members present: Rob Mason, Ambika Balasubramaniyan, Steve Anderson, Phyllis Ralley, Fred Gaudet, Jan Hancock (by phone), Denis Ryan, Susan Lagerman, David Benson, and Kent Taylor

ATA Staff Members: Matt Nelson, Shawn Redfield, Anna Perreira

ITEM	ITEM DESCRIPTION	ACTION STEPS
1	<p>Call to Order and Welcome Rob Mason called the meeting to order at 10:14 a.m. and welcomed everyone. Minutes of the October 2017 meeting were not available for approval. With Jan on the phone, Rob said we would approve the October at the next meeting.</p>	
2	<p>Introduction of New President and Confirmation of Board Officers Rob called for a vote on Steve Anderson as President. Dave seconded it and the vote was unanimous. Rob handed Steve the gavel.</p>	
3	<p>Board Committees Rob listed the Board Officers who had stepped up for another term: Jan Hancock – Secretary CW Payne – Treasurer Fred Gaudet – VP of Trail Operations Denis Ryan – VP of Financial Development Open – VP of Membership Development Open – VP of Board Development (Jeff Whitney no longer on Board)</p> <p>Fred – Committee on Trail Operations Shawn and Zack exofficio. A couple of people around the State. Could use another – Board member. Financial Development – Ambika says committee has not met yet. Dave, Rob and CW.</p> <p>Matthew and Anna arrive, freeway closure made them late. Susan was impacted too.</p> <p>Board recognizes Rob for his years of service.</p> <p>Rob recognizes Matt for having a great staff.</p>	

<p>4</p>	<p>Congressional Delegation Meetings</p> <p>Matthew led a discussion of Rob and Matthew’s experience at “Hike the Hill” in Washington, DC in February. ATA representatives met with Congressional Delegation, US Forest Service and Dept. of Interior leadership, and trail leaders from around the nation. Matt asks for Rob’s perspective.</p> <p>Rob says it was a well-organized event. Other Board members should go next year.</p> <p>They visited many representatives’ offices, including Sinema, McSally, Gosar, Schweikert, Grijalva, O’Halloran and McCain. They had a meeting with Dept. of the Interior (DOI) Associate Director and Recreation Czar Rick May about reducing the maintenance backlog on trails. The DOI intends to address the backlog with gas and oil leases on public land. May was critical of the Mining Law of 1872; is supportive of using chainsaws and helicopters in wilderness; and putting off-duty wildland firefighters to work maintaining trails. As a mountain biker who has ridden the Tour Divide (a version of the Continental Divide Trail), he was familiar with the Arizona Trail and very appreciative of our integration of all non-motorized uses on the AZT.</p> <p>DOI sees little value in partnerships – we should be grateful the Arizona Trail is not administered by the National Park Service or Bureau of Land Management. Current administration has no interest in partnerships and has recommended cancelling Assistance Agreements and Challenge Cost Share Agreements. Phyllis says education and health are a very low priority for the BLM.</p> <p>Everybody loves the Arizona Trail, but voting for increased funding remains to be seen. Sinema and McSally support Trail and are both actively hiking it.</p> <p>It is amazing how people know about the Arizona Trail. Our multi-user encouragement is embraced and appreciated.</p> <p>Although the DOI is committed to access for sportsmen” current studies show only 4% participate in hunting while 52% of Arizonans recreate outdoors.</p> <p>Phyllis talks about Arizona Game and Fish Department’s “I support wildlife” licenses. Wildlife conservation and “watchable wildlife” opportunities are now more popular than in AZ than hunting.</p> <p>Matthew thanked Rob for covering his own travel expenses to Washington DC and for being an exemplary representative of the ATA.</p> <p>Phyllis reported on Warrior Hikers on the Arizona Trail. Following them with GPS was exciting.</p>	
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<p>5</p>	<p>Federal & State Funding</p> <p>When meeting with USFS leadership, Matthew asked for \$100,000,000 for the CMTL (Capitol Maintenance for Trails). We got \$80,000,000, which is an increase from 2017. Forest Service slash support through Challenge Cost Share Agreement from \$250,000 to \$105,500. BLM is unable to commit any funding to the Assistance Agreement.</p> <p>In terms of State funding...dismal news. Lyn White advocates for the Trail, but she did not do the outreach to the State Legislature for funding as promised. This winter, Matthew will ask for an annual appropriation of \$250,000 for the Arizona Trail State Fund. This will be administered by Arizona State Parks & Trails, however Matthew will inquire about the possibility of it being transferred to another state agency due to the fractious relationship with State Parks leadership. Arizona Office of Tourism is a possibility.</p> <p>Kent will reach out to Rusty Bowers and Gail Griffin.</p>	
<p>6</p>	<p>2018 Budget (see attached file)</p> <p>Matthew reports our Budget is shrinking. The focus of the budget will be trail development, signs, gates, kiosks and bridges.</p> <p>Jan mentioned the need to get Steve on as a signatory on the ATA's checking and investment accounts.</p> <p>Natural Restorations is an independent nonprofit organization now, and will be establishing their own accounts soon.</p> <p>Matthew covers highlights: Special event income, sponsorship, Forest Service funds decreasing. He is looking for more business partnerships.</p> <p>Ambika asks if we have put out an appeal to membership for funds. Phyllis asks for newsletter article on the topic. Grants sometimes ask, "how much does your Board donate each year?" Board members are being asked for a \$500 or better donation each year.</p> <p>This is our year for an audit, which costs about \$10,000.</p> <p>David moved and Kent seconded approval of the Budget. Unanimous vote.</p> <p>Financial Report (see attached file)</p> <p>We are on track for 2018 (annual operating budget of \$746,000).</p> <p>Year-end fundraising campaign and a May "High Five" campaign planned.</p> <p>Fred asks if he can pay his membership in advance. Concern about the new tax code mentioned the new "standard deduction" of \$10,000 minimum.</p> <p>Nationally, the new tax code with put a lot of non-profits out of business (industry reports say up to 25% of nonprofits won't survive).</p> <p>We won't see the effects for a couple of years. FaceBook fundraising effort finally paid ATA.</p> <p>Balance sheet: do we need so much sitting in account? Matthew explains juggling money from matching grants. Balance sheet does not balance (due to Natural Restorations account under our umbrella).</p>	

<p>7</p>	<p>Trail Operations Report – Fred Gaudet, VP Trail Operations (see attached file)</p> <p>Fred Gaudet asked for volunteers to serve on the Trail Operations Committee. Matthew outlines non-cooperation of Santa Catalina Ranger District (Coronado National Forest) with his plan to work way up ranks and ultimately, possibly abandoning stewardship on the Ranger District. News would go straight to Washington office and things will change. This has been happening for years. Steve mentions NPS RTCA model.</p> <p>Matt met with Francisco Valenzuela, Forest Service Region 3, who reported that retirement is shrinking Forest Service. As this happens Forest will rely on partner organizations. Partner organizations may benefit.</p> <p>FS National Strategy for Sustainable Trails System. (available online)</p> <p>Matt meets with several mining project proponents.</p> <p>Ripsey Wash is potentially to become tailings site.</p> <p>ATA needs an Economic Impact Study. What people are willing to pay for trail to not be impacted is a vital figure for future negotiations.</p> <p>Wildlife camera project progressing.</p> <p>New website and new database discussed. Fred asks if we can simplify input of volunteer hours. Yes, new platform is in the works. Many Board members do not report hours and travel time.</p> <p>Payson’s Gateway Community sign permit application denied by ADOT. Has to be on a new sign not attached to another sign.</p> <p>Gateway Communities to collectively send letter of appeal.</p> <p>Contact Matthew if you have any specific questions or concerns. Stay involved and in touch.</p> <p>Jan says she is pleased we are moving into the database driven website.</p> <p>This year we will do 12 new Gateway Community maps.</p>	
<p>8</p>	<p>AZNST Administrator Report – Laura White (see digital file attached)</p> <p>Steve reports Laura is not present. Matthew says she continues to work on Comprehensive Plan. Winter of 2018 expected draft. Then it has to go through Environmental Impact Study. The USFS is developing the plan with priority given to thru-hikers and riders, section hikers, then day users.</p> <p>All Scenic Trails go through this similar and lengthy process. ATA has no feasibility study, so process is a bit more complicated. Requires NEPA and visitor capacity. However, no other trails have done this. PCT requires permits (start date) for the entire trail.</p>	
<p>9</p>	<p>MOUs & IGAs – Steve Anderson</p> <p>Steve reports on the need for an updated MOU between Pima County and the ATA. Jan reports that paperwork for old MOUs and IGAs exists in ATA archives. Matthew, Tamar and Ellen (volunteer) have scoured the ATA files at the Tucson office and not located them. In 2000, all agencies got together with AZ State Parks. All agencies closed off funding because they could not support the State Parks coordinator.</p> <p>IGA signed in 1990s. All documents found were not signed. We will go after a comprehensive, signed IGA.</p>	

	<p>Steve and Kent suggest doing one with Counties. Susan says there is a big chance not all of them would sign. Jan says we need to do new agreement without money attached.</p>	
<p>10</p>	<p>Development Director Report – Anna Perreira (see separate digital and printed files) Anna gives us her bio and resume. PCT hiker, she specializes in corporate finance. Current efforts discussion. Six bullet points in development plan. TEP and REI moneys are in. ATA’s grants include Foundations, REI, TEP monies received as corporate donations. Anna networking with all. Business partners are smaller givers – \$250-\$2,500. Giving business the option to pay monthly instead of one lump sum is working. A new licensing income partner is coming on board in 2018 – an AZT blend of wine. Individual donations. FaceBook just waved all of their fees. We got approved as 501c3 by FaceBook. Fundraising posts can be created by individuals. Adding another campaign – giving Tuesday – networking with everyone’s inner circle. Needs Board to call and thank donors. Private grants applied for, but takes 2 to 3 months to hear back. Event income discussed. Corporate sponsors discussed. Inner and outer and center circles. Denis asked if SRP contributes and Matt answered yes. Ambika mentions Blue Cross Blue Shield. Go to center circles and <u>ask</u>. Phyllis talks about bringing primary care physician to annual meeting. Write down three people to tap. She handed out sponsor package sample. Susan mentioned that people like tangible goals. There was a discussion of developing an ATA wish list.</p>	
<p>11</p>	<p>Proposal to Archive AZT and ATA History at Cline Library at NAU – Phyllis Ralley, Jan Hancock Phyllis outlined a proposal by NAU Archives Peter Runge to house the ATA/AZT history. Peter will be invited to attend the August meeting. Peter has offered to give anyone interested a tour Friday before the meeting. Rob voiced an interest in taking a tour. Jan described archives. It spreads our story worldwide.</p>	

<p>12</p>	<p>Open Discussion on ATA Programs, Operations and Staff Reports Water caching was discussed by Shawn and Ambika. There was mention of the mountain bike “non-event” from Mexico to Picketpost (AZT 300) and Mexico to Utah (AZT 750). Shawn asked the status of Sahuarita Road Trailhead and Steve reported on progress. Shawn reported that the water caching is “out of control” and there was an extended discussion of the problem and potential solutions.</p>	
	<p>Future Meetings August 18 – Hart Prairie Preserve, Flagstaff October 20 – Triangle L Ranch, Oracle</p>	
	<p>Attached digital reports GIS Director Report ATA Volunteer Program Report Seeds of Stewardship Report Arizona National Scenic Trail Administrator’s Report</p>	
	<p>There being no further business, Kent moved to adjourn and Steve seconded at 2:21 pm. The motion passed.</p>	
	<p style="text-align: right;">Respectfully submitted by Phyllis Ralley</p>	