

**Arizona Trail Association Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
October 14, 2017
10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
La Posta Quemada Ranch in Colossal Cave Mountain Park, Vail, AZ**

Board Members present: Rob Mason, Ambika Balasubramaniyan, Steve Anderson, Phyllis Ralley, Fred Gaudet, Jan Hancock, C.W. Payne, Susan Lagerman, Bernie Stallman

ATA Staff Members: Matt Nelson, Zach MacDonald

Visitors: Kent Taylor, David Benson, Larry Snead

ITEM	ITEM DESCRIPTION	ACTION STEPS
1	<p>Rob Mason called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m. and welcomed everyone. He called for approval of last meeting's minutes.</p> <p>Fred moved and Steve seconded the unanimous acceptance of the minutes of the May 2014 meeting.</p>	
2	<p>Introduction of Potential New Board Members</p> <p>Kent Taylor and David Benson were introduced to the Board. Fred suggested we vote before lunch.</p>	
3	<p>Advisory Council Discussion</p> <p>Ambika reported on recent work to recruit an Advisory Board. The Board had reviewed a draft letter at last meeting and made suggestions, which were implemented by Tamara at the ATA office who also did the mailing to 49 people. Ambika reported that 12 people stepped up and Lisa Atkins of the State Land Department voiced interest when the person we had contacted with the State Land Department declined. The goal is to recruit 25-30 individuals who will serve primarily in a digital meeting arrangement except smaller sub committees may meet in person. Susan suggested we invite political figures in a non-working status to be on the Advisory Board. Matthew and Jan said that that had been done in the past and suggested a few names for potentials.</p> <p>The Committee, which consists of Ambika, Larry, Rob and Matt voiced a desire to introduce the Advisory Board at the ATA Annual Meeting in February. Fred suggested we might want to do a separate meeting before or after the Annual Meeting.</p>	

<p>4</p>	<p>Board Officers</p> <p>Rob reported that he asked CW if he intended to remain on as Treasurer. CW agreed.</p> <p>Jan agreed to remain Secretary, Fred will continue as VP of Trail Operations, and Jeff Whitney will serve again as VP of Board Development.</p> <p>Rob asked for a volunteer to serve as Board President at least for one year.</p>	
<p>5</p>	<p>Arizona Trail Comprehensive Plan</p> <p>Matthew led a discussion of the Scoping meetings being held by the Forest Service on the Arizona Trail Comprehensive Plan. He said that at least one ATA representative attended each meeting across the State. He said there are not many comments coming in as no one is offended by this project, except there is resistance from mining and some ranching interests. The ATA needs to submit detailed thoughtful comments.</p> <p>He pointed to the appendices and the goals and objectives section of the document and asked the Board what is missing from this?</p> <p>Water sources, comments on shooting and hunting were mentioned. Fred pointed out that the discussion of the trail corridor did not include rights-of-way. Phyllis asked if Matthew had received Steve McClintock's comments from the Back Country Horsemen. Matthew had read their comments which were extensive and well thought out. Matthew pointed out that most people do not know the difference between the Arizona Trail Association and the Forest Service so the comments coming in often reflect this.</p> <p>Jan criticized the photos used in the FS document and Matthew said the Forest Service was the sole author of it.</p> <p>Fred mentioned that the document talks about carrying capacity but does not address interaction between mountain bikers, hikers, equestrians and, on a few sections of the trail, motorized users.</p> <p>Matt pointed out that the one-mile of protected corridor does NOT include a mining prohibition. He stated that the 1872 Mining Law is untouchable.</p> <p>There was a discussion of eBikes, and how they are not allowed on the Arizona National Scenic Trail (except for the segments when the trail is actually on roads).</p> <p>Matthew pointed out that this 24 page document is the precursor to the Draft Comprehensive plan which will be about 1000 pages.</p>	<p>Get any other comments to Matt within two weeks. Matt will submit comments on behalf of the ATA.</p>

	<p>There was an extended discussion of language referring to Connector Trails, of which there are about 50. The connector trails would essentially double the length of the Arizona Trail. If they are included in this document the Arizona Trail Association would take on the responsibility of maintaining those trails, which is way beyond our current capacity.</p> <p>Matt had provided the Forest Service with a list of side trails and their mileage. He said they included only a fraction of those in this document. Phyllis asked about equestrian access to the side trails and Jan suggested that every new trailhead be designed to accommodate horses.</p> <p>Fred suggested we put in the language that connector trails will not be managed as the main trail. The ATA cannot take on the responsibility of managing those trails.</p> <p>It was decided to use language like, “we support connector trails, but not as part of the National Scenic Trail.”</p> <p>Matthew asked if there is anything in the plan that we absolutely love so he can give some positive feedback. Jan mentioned the wildlife experience would get a thumbs-up and the Board agreed.</p> <p>The discussion continued with review and comments on each element of the document.</p>	
<p>6</p>	<p>Nominations and Election of new Board members Steve moved and Fred seconded a motion to vote on the new Board members. Unanimously approved. Rob welcomed Kent Taylor and David Benson.</p>	
<p>7</p>	<p>Zach MacDonald Trail Operations Report Zach reported on trail operations and projects that have occurred since the summertime. He also reported on the first ever ATA volunteer event held on the North Rim of the Grand Canyon. Heretofore the Park management had said, “No volunteers.” Personnel changes, strained resources, and a face-to-face meeting with Park leadership led the new management to welcome the ATA event. With the help of trained chainsaw operators from Park and the Forest Service 160 down and dead trees were removed and aspen seedlings by the thousands were brushed out. The Grand Canyon staff asked, “When can you come back?”</p> <p>Zach reported work on other sections of trail.</p> <p>He will be working to try and repair four miles of damage from the Burro Fire, including repairing drainage in lieu of water bars.</p> <p>Archaeological survey completed for Oak Tree Canyon Trailhead. Just waiting for OK to open it up again.</p>	

	<p>Finished biological surveys for Canelo Hills reroute. NEPA continues as well as public scoping.</p> <p>Shawn working on installing bridges across headwaters of East Verde River near Washington Park.</p> <p>Working on reroutes off of forest roads.</p> <p>Matt reports on LOST trail. ADOT gave funds to rebuild trail after highway widening completed. Might be done by next May. Tonto NF is amazing, and Pablo Burghard is a tireless advocate.</p> <p>Steve reported Sahuarita Road Trailhead design for two acres going to ASLD and then purchase land.</p>	
8	<p>Sign Standards and Protocols</p> <p>Matt asked Board to review and approve or amend.</p> <p>Fred mentioned occasions when road crossings are so close that more signs are added. Kent says Pinal County has problem with cattle trails. Goal is primitive trail with fewer signs, but sometimes reassurance signs are needed. Susan suggested smaller, simpler sign for redundancy. American flag on signs stops them being used as targets for shooters. Cairns are not addressed in sign plans. Best sign by a stream but subject to getting kicked over.</p> <p>David Benson says signs are often reassuring. Ambika concurs that sometimes self doubt creeps in if signs are not close enough. Bernie mentions GPS as an alternative, but Matt says this document is addressing only physical signs.</p> <p>Interpretive signs to be in English and Spanish.</p> <p>Fred moves to approve and Steve seconds. Unanimously approved.</p>	
9	<p>Trail Operations Resource Allocation Policy</p> <p>Establishing \$15,000 cut off for change in approval process. Over that amount requires approval.</p> <p>Phyllis moves to accept Trail Operations Resource Allocation Policy and Dave seconds. Unanimously approved.</p>	
10	<p>Executive Director Report</p> <p>(see separate digital report)</p> <p>Highlights: new website by web developer who just relocated from Tucson to Seattle. Will be mobile friendly, more modern format, and easier for staff to make updates.</p>	

	<p>Trademark applications for the Arizona Trail and Arizona National Scenic Trail logos were rejected by US Patent office. Arizona Trail Association logo will be approved. Ongoing efforts to brand and blend the trail symbol and the association symbol. ATA will reapply for the trademark in five years. The name Arizona Trail was originally owned by a gasoline company. Jan mentioned process that ATA went through to get the name, however there is no legal ownership of "Arizona Trail."</p> <p>Numerous grant applications have been submitted. Intern to be funded to help celebrate the 50th anniversary of National Trails System Act. Interviewing people for Development Director (contractor).</p> <p>Jr. Ranger book being translated into Spanish. Phyllis comments on BLM role in the production. Ken Mahoney to be connected with Matthew.</p> <p>Rob offers to attend Hike The Hill with Matthew this year. Congratulations to Natural Restorations, now their own 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. They removed over 187 tons of from public lands last year.</p>	
<p>11</p>	<p>Financial Report C.W Payne reports about investment account. See separate digital report. Budget on track, no oddities. Expenditures right in line except \$5000 in unemployment that the Association had to pay. (Account 5185) No fiscal concerns at moment.</p> <p>Jan compliments Matt on building up funds so that matching grants can be applied for.</p> <p>Rob mentioned Balance sheet not matching. Last meeting it did not match so please check with accountant to find problem.</p> <p>Thanks to CW for making the long drive from Flagstaff.</p> <p>CW and Matthew want to develop an Endowment Fund.</p>	
<p>12</p>	<p>Personnel Issues There was a confidential discussion about ATA personnel issues among staff and board members.</p>	
<p>13</p>	<p>Open Discussion of ATA Programs, Operations and Staff Reports Matt says see attached digital reports.</p> <p>Membership continues to increase through total number of members and the amount each member gives annually.</p> <p>Phyllis asks about the old Lifetime Membership category.</p> <p>Ambika suggests we reach out to active trail users who are also bloggers.</p>	

<p>14</p>	<p>AZT Trail Blazer Award Update Rob has tried to get an award. Phyllis and Tom Coulson have worked on this but it has reached a stalemate. Dave Hicks threw a wet blanket over project. Phyllis suggestions adding to the website like the Arizona Sonoran Desert Museum. Susan thinks we should give one at this year's annual meeting. Maybe give out two or three the first year. Phyllis says we should give an award to everyone because we all have helped. Tom still involved and we are going to start accumulating these histories. Susan asks if we have an award committee. Susan and Steve volunteer to be on an award. Phyllis also solicits all the stories Dale told to everyone.</p>	
<p>15</p>	<p>All Board Members: Please make your plans to attend the ATA Annual Members' meeting at Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix on February 3, 2018. (This is the 24th Annual Meeting).</p> <p>Matt suggests Board Meeting occur on a day other than Saturday. Ambika suggests a phone meeting. Susan says we need to see each other. Jan says she always feels energized and several people agreed.</p> <p>2018 Board Meetings and potential locations: April 21 REI Distribution Center in Goodyear August 18 Hart Prairie Preserve near Flagstaff October 20 Triangle L Ranch in Oracle</p> <p>Matthew shared photos of the rattlesnake mural recently painted on culvert under I-10. Anyone who is interested in helping to plan Annual Meeting. Ambika, Phyllis, David volunteered.</p> <p>Matthew appreciates our trust in him.</p>	
	<p>There being no further business, David moved to adjourn and Steve seconded at 2:32 pm. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	