

TENNESSEE TRAILS ASSOCIATION
MINUTES FROM
THE FIRST QUARTER BOARD MEETING

Tennessee Trails Association
1st Quarter 2004
Board meeting Minutes
February 7, 2004

TTA President Fount Bertram called to order, the first Quarter Board Meeting of the Tennessee Trails Association at the Patterson Community Recreation Building in Murfreesboro, TN. Present (noted in alphabetical order) were:

Anna Bertram; Fount Bertram; Libby Francis; David Furse; Bill Hamilton; Thomas Howell; Leigh Jones; Nancy Juodenas; Rick Lausten; Carolyn Miller; Brent Morris; June Parker; Toni Reeves; Doug Ratliff; Barry Spearman; Sandra Spearman

1. The minutes from the Fourth Quarter Board meeting were approved as amended.

2. Treasurer's Report

June Parker gave the Treasurer's Report and passed out copies to Board members. The Board approved the paying of the \$ 300.00 membership dues to The Tennessee Conservation Voters. TTA members may contact Libby Francis to receive their information. Membership in the American Hiking Society will also be renewed. Allocations to Chapters will not go out till the treasurer's report is received by June Parker.

3. Membership Report

Toni Reeves, membership director, reported that as of January, there are 702 members. Toni has started sending the new members' names to the Chapter chairs so they will know who their new members are and be able to contact them. Fount would like to see a membership person within each chapter. Toni suggested putting membership forms in places where people work out etc. David Furse volunteered to find someone to retrieve the messages from the membership phone line. The Columbia Chapter is now called the Columbia/Franklin Chapter.

4. New Business

The liability forms that we use on hikes need to be kept on file for at least 1 year. Hike leaders should turn them into their hike coordinators or Chapter Chairs. These liability forms absolve us from personal liability. Lee will review the release and make sure the language is correct.

5. Chapter Reports

Big South Fork

Tom Howell reported that they had elected new officers. They are as follows: Thomas Howell/ Chapter Officer, Benita Howell/ Secretary-Treasurer, Tim and Lynn Takacs/ Board Reps and Kathy Hicks/ Outings Coordinator.

Clarksville

Bill Hamilton reported that they are getting 3-5 new members per month. They have a newcomers hike once a month besides their regular hikes. They maintain 12 miles of the North/South Trail at Land Between the Lakes.

Columbia/Franklin

Rick Lausten reported that they are running ads in the local papers and posting their hike schedule for dayhikes and backpacks. He thanked Toni Reeves for her efforts in membership recruitment.

Highland Rim

Doug Ratliff reported that they have gone to 30 members in 2 years. They have 2 hikes per month and there are usually about 12 people at the meetings.

Jackson

Lee Sparks reported that their hikes are well attended but their meetings are not. He said they have made out their schedule for the whole year which includes hikes, overnights, floats, and bonfires.

Memphis

The rep, Gloria Lenski was not present but Fount read the e-mail that she had sent him. In the e-mail she reported that plans are underway for the 2004 Annual Meeting at Pickwick Landing. There will be more information in the April newsletter.

Murfreesboro

Anna Bertram, the new Chapter Officer announced the new officers. Her Co-Officer is Faylene Timbs, Treasurer/Barbara Draude, Outings Coordinator/ Ron Dunn, Membership/Jaye Kiblinger and Program Coordinator/Tammy Day. They would like a Publicity Director. Their goals are to have growth in membership, attendance, and participation. They have 50 members, and 15-20 at meetings.

Nashville

David Furse reported that the Nashville Chapter no longer has a permanent meeting place and they are trying out a variety of places in their search for a new home. There are about 30 - 80 people at meetings out of membership of 289. David reported that there is a lot of competition for members by other organizations. His chapter also sends out a monthly e-mail to subscribing members to keep them updated.

Northwest

There were 19 people on their Martin Luther King Day hike!

Plateau

Carolyn Miller reported that they have 43 members. They have a Wednesday group of retirees and a Saturday group.

East TN

Fount read an e-mail from Beverly Neurock announcing the election of Rosemary Marshall as Chapter Officer for the next two years.

6. Regional Reps Reports

East Tennessee

Arlene sent an e-mail, since she was unable to come. She reported no contact with Cumberland Gap, or Soddy Daisy. The Cove Lake Chapter has undertaken to build a 1 ½ mile nature trail in LaFollette.

Middle Tennessee

Brent Morris reported that the bridge that was built at Savage Gulf, by TTA members, is still standing. Ranger Bob has also requested trail maintenance help at Collins West and Horsepound Falls on Saturday, April 24 and possibly May 2, 15, and 22.

There was no report from West Tennessee.

7. Associate Organization Reports

CTC

Barry and Sandra Spearman reported that this year's spring Breakaway, (Feb 29- March 26), will involve 20 schools and 310 students. There will be teams from Americorp and Landmark. They are asking for food donations, and cooks.

The Big Dig, will be from May 16- June 26. It will be at the Lutheran Camp and will hire 24

students. They also need food donations, cooks and general volunteers. "Stomp", which is a fundraising hike will be on April 24th. There will be a Grand Opening of the Soddy Daisy/Rock Possum Gorge Trails on June 5th, National Trails Day. Barry gave the financial report, and also reported that "someone" is writing a book about the Cumberland Trail.

Southeast Foothills Coalition

There will be a leadership conference on April 24th-26th. Jim Poteet and JR Tate are the TTA reps.

Natchez Trace Trail Conference

A representative was sent from TTA. The National Park Service considers the Natchez Trace Foot Trail complete. The Service is not interested in creating a real foot trail. The rep said the Park Service is very hard to deal with and recommends that TTA just wait to see what happens with this project.

Rails-to-Trails

This organization seems to be defunct at the moment. We should consider this organization to be inactive but leave the charter intact. Barry Spearman will find out the status and report at the May Board Meeting.

8. Other items

Evan Means Small Grants

The CTC requests \$1,000 to build a bridge. A motion was made and seconded that we approve the Grant request upon receipt of the budget. Also a request for \$500 from Edgar Evins State Park was made to provide for signage at the park. A motion was made and seconded that we extend the deadline to Feb. 28th and approve the grant upon receipt of the budget.

National Public Lands Day/ Sept. 8th

Edgar Evins State Park will be having free camping, a bonfire and entertainment on Friday and Saturday nights. There was a general call for projects for this day.

Newsletter

Diane and Tina remind us about the deadlines. The chapter officers need to get with the hike coordinators to emphasize this. The announcements need to be worded the way we want them printed. Libby emphasized putting EST or CST on the hike times.

Each organization that is a member of the Eastern Foothills Coalition is to have a rep and an alternate. The Rep for TTA should be an elected Board member. This issue will be decided at the Annual Meeting and would require an addition to the bylaws. The idea of having an External Organizations Rep was tabled until the May Board Meeting.

There was a general consensus that the Newsletter Editor did not need to be a Board position. The next Board Meeting is scheduled for May 1st. Fount will e-mail members as to time and place. The meeting was adjourned at about 3:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Juodenas
TTA Secretary, 2003-2004