

Fourth Quarter Board of Directors Meeting - 2005
Tennessee Trails Association
Sunday, October 16, 2005
Dubose Conference Center, Monteagle, TN

Present: Carolyn Miller, Fount Bertram, Anna Bertram, Anne Wesley, Doug Ratliff, Jim Johnson, Paul Freeman, Rick Lausten, Charlie Jones, Richard Savage, J. R. Tate, Jim Clark, Thomas Howell, Benita Howell, Carolyn Pierce, Rosemary Marshall, Lou Ann Partington, Leigh Jones, Brent Morris, Gary Cooper.

Proxy: Paul Freeman for Sandra Spearman, J.R. Tate for Judith Tate.

Members in attendance: Diane Manas, Nora Beck.

Guest: Gary Campbell, Representing the Friends of the South Cumberland State Recreation Area.

TTA President, Fount Bertram, called the meeting to order at 8:57 AM. The attendees were welcomed and introductions were made.

Officer Elections for 2006 were held during the General Membership meeting on Saturday, October 15.

Approval of 3rd quarter minutes for 2005

Approved and seconded with slight name changes.

Treasurer's Report – Lou Ann Partington

Balance sheet is now balanced.

Operating at a slight surplus.

CD is currently at 2.7%.

Some Life Memberships are sitting in the checking account at 0.2%. Recommend that we move this money into CD. Interest would be deposited into the checking account on a monthly basis. **Motion** by Lou Ann Partington: Move surplus money of \$3000 from savings into a Money Market account and purchase two CD's. Motion was seconded and carried.

Murfreesboro chapter did not get a deposit for the 2005 meeting. The money was sent to Lou Ann and she wrote a check from TTA.

Clarksville Chapter may need an advance to pay the deposit for the 2006 meeting.

Budget: Two versions of the budget were distributed.

Budget A: Slight deficit if expenses stay the same and no increase in dues. This includes \$3,000 in Evan Means Small Grants.

Budget B: Slight excess based on an assumed increase in membership income.

Discussion about budgeting. Newsletter is a big cost. Is this an area where we could cut costs? The newsletter is a good way to get new members and also advertises what TTA does.

May not be able to decrease expenses, but should perhaps increase funding, especially for the Evan Means Grants. Currently, it is being partially funded through our operating expenses instead of entirely through the Supporting Memberships. Only have 30 supporting members. This is an area where we could get more involvement.

Soliciting advertising is a good idea, but it takes a point person. What kind of ads would we accept? J. R. Tate says that we should make an initial attempt to solicit membership in the 2006 Membership Directory. Jim Johnson will write an article for the next newsletter to solicit a person to seek advertising revenue for TTA.

Recoup deficit at Annual Meeting. Auction made around \$5000 and there is some money from drink sales.

Memorial contributions for Donald Todd total \$700 - \$800.

Solicit money from a foundation would probably need to be used for a particular project and not just for operating expenses. Allstate Foundation will give out unrestricted funds.

Carolyn Pierce will investigate.

Motion was made to approve Budget A. The motion was seconded and the motion carried.

New Business

Presentation made by Gray Campbell, Board Member of the Friends of the South Cumberland State Recreation Area, concerning the Mountain Goat Trail. The rail bed from Monteagle to Cowan is now abandoned and a group would like to make this a 16-17 mile Rails-to-Trails corridor. The corridor was built in 1848 from Nashville to Chattanooga. They are accepting donations to acquire as much of this land as possible. Friends of the South Cumberland, the Monteagle Assembly, Tennessee Parks and Greenways, and the Tennessee Land Trust are already promoting this corridor. Part of this property is along the Trail of Tears. More information on the Friends of the South Cumberland website. **Motion** made by Thomas Howell for TTA to support this Rails-to-Trails project. The motion was seconded and motion carried.

Membership Report- written report submitted by Garnett Rush.

2005 Directory now published and distributed.

Active members: 650. This is approximately 50 lower than last year at this time.

Wants feedback from Chapter Officers concerning the membership list sent to each Chapter Chair.

Anne Wesley asked who will send the supporting member tax receipts. Lou Ann Partington will send the receipts to Supporting members and others who donate.

Chapter Reports

Memphis – Carolyn Pierce. Membership is up, but fewer members attending the monthly meetings. Hikes are well attended. Will have new officers for next year.

Jackson – Gary Cooper. Meetings are not well attended, but hikes are popular and attended by both members and non-members.

Northwest – Jim Clark. Meet on an ad-hoc basis. Have monthly hikes that are generally well attended.

Columbia/Franklin – Rick Lausten. About 34 active members. Monthly meetings at a Chinese Restaurant are well attended. Sherri Yokley will become new Chapter Chair as of November 2005 meeting. Tennessee Parks and Greenways have asked their

chapter to build a trail to Stillhouse Hollow. Rick is proposing that their chapter write a grant to build the trail and a bridge. Grant deadline is November 5. Brent will coordinate chapters to do the trail work. TTA will write the grant.

Highland Rim – Doug Ratliff. Last meeting was at a restaurant and it was well attended. Having trouble finding hike leaders. Usually have a good speaker at their regular meetings.

Murfreesboro – Anna Bertram. Annual meeting has been their primary activity for the last year. A committee of six was the coordinating group for the annual meeting. The December issue of the newsletter will have a report of the annual meeting. Good turn out for meetings. Most months they have three hikes scheduled. To encourage attendance at the monthly meetings, a notice is sent the Sunday before the meeting, the morning of the meeting and a notice is put in the newspaper.

Nashville – Jim Johnson. Approximately 40 people attend their monthly meetings. Jim sends out a reminder to the members the week before a meeting. They have had some trouble finding a permanent meeting place. Jim Poteet can help Chapter Chairs send out a broadcast e-mail to all their chapter members. It is done through a list server.

Upper Cumberland – Richard Savage. Had a backpacking trip in September. Still hiking every Saturday.

Big South Fork – Thomas and Benita Howell. Membership is steady, but have a few new members by offering Tuesday morning hikes. Only have one chapter meeting per year. Linda Sue Brooks-Jones with Grey Gables would like to get a bit more financial support from TTA as they continue to donate a stay at Grey Gables each year for the TTA auction.

East Tennessee – Rosemary Marshall. Been a successful year. Annual picnic was in August. In November, will have their annual meeting to plan hikes for the next year. They will have new officers in 2006.

Cove Lake – No representative present. Faith Dippold is building trail at Frozen Head. They do weekly trail maintenance and have a weekly hike.

Plateau – Carolyn Miller. Weekly hikes on Wednesday are well attended. Meet quarterly, with next meeting in December.

Clarksville – J. R. Tate representing Judith Tate. Meet monthly and hike weekly. Most of their efforts are being focused on a local park, Rotary Park. Some of the land was lost to developers, so they have to relocate some of the trails. In the process of forming a "Friends" group for the park. New officers: Mary Hinton, incoming chair. Suva Bastin will be vice-chair. They will host the annual meeting in 2006. It will be at Brandon Springs at the Land Between the Lakes, October 20 – 22, 2006.

West Tennessee Representative Position – Jerry Lenski has resigned. Need a replacement.

Middle Tennessee Representative – Brent Morris. He is encouraged by how the Chapters are working with their local parks. Brent is willing to help with these

projects. TTA continues to be asked to help build trails. TWRA asked TTA to help build trails in the Tennessee part of the Walls of Jericho. This week an Americorp group started building trails in this area.

Savage Gulf has asked us to help build a small bridge on the South Rim Trail and they also have other trail projects for which they could use help.

Fount is recommending that chapters apply for grants to purchase their own trail building tools.

Dickson Chapter – no reply to e-mails, so no interest at this time.

East Tennessee Representative – Charlie Jones. Elected to serve the last year of Arleen Decker's three-year term. First goal is to revive the Soddy Daisy chapter.

CTC Report – Paul Freeman

Quick review of Breakaway and Big Dig for 2005. This is the same information that was presented at the August board meeting.

Fall Programs: three concurrent programs. Lodging and trail programs in the Soddy Daisy area planned until November 22, 2005.

Trail Building class scheduled for October was cancelled due to lack of participation.

Trail Design Class still scheduled for the end of the year.

If hike a section of the Cumberland Trail, please send a report of any work that needs to be done.

Four months of trail building scheduled in 2005 and planning for 8 months of trail building in 2006.

CTC – 2004 Audit Report

Motion to approve made by Carolyn Miller. Second by Lou Ann Partington. Motion carried.

Spring Breakaway 2006

Dogwood camp is reserved for a five-week period from the end of February through March 2006. Should complete most of the trail work in the Rock, Possum and Soddy Gorge during the Spring Breakaway program.

CTC/TTA separation. (New 501(c) 3 proposal)

Motion by Anne Wesley to table further discussion of this item until First Quarter meeting in 2006. Second by Paul Freeman. Motion carried.

SEFTC report – J. R. Tate

Will attend the SEFTC Strategic Planning session in November. Contact him if you have any questions or comments. The name of the north to south hiking trail to the west of the Appalachian Trail will be determined during this meeting. The "Great Eastern Trail" is the name most likely to be chosen.

Newsletter Editor

We have a person interested in being the editor for the newsletter.

New Business

- Evan Means Small Grants – Deadline is December 31, 2005. TTA has budgeted \$3,000 for these grants. Contact: Leigh Jones.
- A display, table cover, laptop computer, projection screen and digital projector were purchased through a grant submitted to REI. This equipment belongs to TTA and we need to establish a protocol for the use of this

equipment. Anna Bertram thanked Diane Manas for assisting with obtaining the grant from REI.

Suggested protocol: who checks out, what conditions it can be used, what cleaning is required to return. **Motion** to have Diane Manas and Anna Bertram to write a protocol for the use of this equipment. Seconded and motion carried.

- TTA Auction Proceeds.

Motion to donate the proceeds from the 2005 TTA auction to the Breakaway program of the CTC. Seconded and motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:25 PM.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Miller,
TTA Secretary