

**TTA Fourth Quarter Board Meeting
The Lodge at Valley View
Townsend, Tennessee
November 8, 2009**

Attendees: Ron Dunn, Millette Jones, Candy Higgs, Tom Bentley, Paul Schwab, Jim Stark, Bob Richards, Libby Francis, Anne Wesley, Tony Hook, Jan Agee, Brandy Selman, Don Dresser, Rosemary Marshall, Richard Helm, Graydon Swisher, Joe Matlock

Visitors: Dorothy Dresser, Diane Manas, Jim Poteet, Marietta Poteet, James Avery, Angelique Helm

Meeting called to order at 9:01 AM EST on November 8, 2009.

I. Introductions: Jim Stark, Dyer County Chapter; Jan Agee, Treasurer-elect; Louise Miniard, Upper Cumberland Chapter

II. Approval of third quarter minutes.

Motion by Carolyn Miller to amend the minutes: add Millette Jones to the list of attendees and correct the Clarksville information: they worked at Rotary Park and not Dunbar Cave. Seconded by Richard Helm. Motion passed to amend the minutes.

III. Budget Review – Don Dresser

- Balance Sheet and Cash Flow for TTA and CTC was distributed.
- TTA is spending what we bring in. TTA Cash Flow - showed a \$5,000 outgo, but that was the auction proceeds that were transferred to CTC.
- CTC has a slight profit.
- TTA has approximately \$38,000 in the bank.
- CTC has approximately \$1 Million in the bank. \$300,000 is dedicated to the acquisition of the Kinzalow property.
- Annual audit – completed and no issues.
- Budget will be presented at the First Quarter Board Meeting. Need to focus on membership trends.

IV. Membership Report – Ron Dunn.

- 616 memberships with 152 family memberships.
- Don't forget that we have the TTA display. It can be used to publicize TTA at local events.
- Sending a letter to James Smith, Life Time member in Jamestown, thanking him for his past service.
- Membership Development: Challenge the smaller chapters to get a larger rebate by recruiting more members.
- Membership renewal online- could we use Paypal?
- CTC has used Paypal and been happy with using.
- How much would it cost to use Paypal for membership renewal?

- **Motion** by Libby Francis to pursue the use of Paypal for membership renewal. Seconded by Millette Jones. Motion passed.
Discussion: Limit Paypal to membership fees only for now.
Should pursue multi-year membership renewal.

V. Merchandising Report – Candy Higgs

- Sold a lot of merchandise this year.

VI. National Trails Day and Rails to Trails – Bob Richards

- National Trails Day – Tennessee had 28 events registered through American Hiking Society website. This was a record number of events.
 - Had over 1500 people on the trail.
 - Asking each chapter to sponsor a National Trails Day Event in 2010 on the first Saturday in June. You can register your event on-line.
- Rails to Trails
 - Johnson City – Elizabethton project (10 miles)
 - Athens (6 miles abandoned) – paper work for Rail Banking has been signed.
 - Soddy Daisy – 6 miles of rail to the Sequoyah nuclear plant. Funds have been received for an environmental study.
- Blue Ways – primarily water trails, but can have adjacent land trail.
- Recreational Trails Project: Tennessee has \$1.2 Million funds to grant out. Also has a six-year Federal program that could be granted out.
- Rail with Trail: Monterey to Cookeville.
Trail within an active Rail Corridor.
Have \$2.5 Million dollars.
TDOT required them to design the entire trail before the project could proceed.
Total cost: \$ 6 Million.
- National Trails Conference in Chattanooga in November 2010.

VII. West Tennessee Representative – Graydon Swisher

- Dyer County – 7 members
 - Established a system of trails within the city of Dyersburg.
Three major rivers meet here and have a levee system that could be used for a hiking.
- Martin Chapter
Working to re-establish the chapter. Need a new chapter chair.
- Camden
Friends Group could be a base for a new chapter.
- Muncer – two hiking groups in the area have been contacted.

VIII. Middle Tennessee Representative – Libby Francis

- Sumner Trails -20 members
Several transferred from Murfreesboro and Nashville.
Help from Anne Wesley and Al Ballenger was invaluable.

IX. East Tennessee Representative – Joe Matlock

- No new business.
- Cumberland Gap – no longer listed as a chapter.
- Big South Fork – still active.

X. Old Business

- Allardt Pumpkin Festival – TTA had a float in the parade.
Plan to participate in 2010

XI. New Business

- Sumner Trails petition to the Board to become a chapter.
Motion and seconded to accept the petition to accept Sumner Trails as a new chapter.
Motion passed.
- Dyer County petition to the Board become a chapter. **Motion** by Graydon Swisher.
Motion seconded. Motion passed.
- SEFTC Conference – Annual meeting scheduled for May 2010 at Dubose Center in Monteagle. TTA has asked to be the “financial agent” for the conference.
Don Dresser and Janice Agee said that this would not be a problem for them.
What would SEFTC expect to get from conference?
- Newsletter Editor
Leslie el Sayed has resigned and we need a replacement.
The last newsletter she will produce will be the December newsletter.
LouAnn Partington is considering taking over the job of newsletter editor.
Motion by Don Dresser to ask LouAnn to be the newsletter editor beginning December 1. Motion seconded. Motion passed.
Discussion: Diane will shadow the first newsletter.
Make sure that all newsletter info is send to editor@tennesseetrails.org.
- Nominating committee. – deferred to February meeting.
- Evan Means Committee – in the past the members of the committee were: President, Treasurer, and Past President.
Bob Richards has volunteered to serve. Should also include the three Regional Reps.
- February board meeting – February 6 in Nashville.
 - REI – possible location.
- TTA e-mail addresses:
Suggest using president@tennesseetrails.org
vicepresident@tennesseetrails.org.
- New Years Day Hike – who is organizing the hike now that Fount is not?

XII. CTC Report – Tony Hook

- Signed RTP contract – will start work in the New River Segment in April 2010.
Breakaway in March 2010: lodging at Dogwood Camp in Soddy Daisy and will work in North Chickamauga.
- High Priority Projects - 4 grants that will help to finish the trail in Cumberland and Morgan Counties
- 2010 RTP grant to fund a bridge in Big Soddy Gorge
- Lyndhurst Foundation of Chattanooga – will provide some funding in 2010

- Due to depressed real estate market, good time to pursue the purchase of property using some of the Capital Campaign money:
 - Garner property – near Dayton
 - Kinzalow property – connect Rock Creek with Laurel Snow.
- Cumberland Mountain Segment - Mapas property North of Tank Springs
Expect to close on this property by the end of the year.
- Fern Lake Land Acquisition – Cumberland Gap National Park has purchased land that will close part of the gap between the national park and the Cumberland Trail.
- Currently 170 miles completed with 220,000 volunteer hours.

XIII. Future of TTA - Don Dresser

- Please send out thoughts of your idea for the future of TTA.
- Grow membership and provide service to hikers in Tennessee.
- Web based directory of information about hiking throughout the State.
 - Would need help from other hiking groups and friend groups associated with parks.
 - Could collect e-mail addresses of persons who visited the website.
 - Could we use this information to produce a TTA hiking book?
- Do we need a Webmaster?
- New Board position – Communication Director?
- Survey to members requesting input about our proposals
- Survey to previous members about why they left
- Website that has information about hikes in Tennessee.
connectwithtn.com
- Forever Green Tennessee – motion proposed by Nora Beck
Motion by Joe Matlock that TTA formally write a letter to Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation that we endorse the Forever Green Tennessee initiative to restore conservation funding from Tennessee's real estate transfer tax.
Seconded by Libby Francis. Motion passed.
Discussion:
Previous tax: 8 cents per \$100 of real estate transferred. Money was used for parks, wetland and recreational lands.
No, this would not be considered lobbying.
- Friends of South Cumberland – 81 miles of trail in the South Cumberland.
Highland Rim Chapter is trying to schedule hikes in the South Cumberland so that in one year all the hikes in the South Cumberland will be hiked. Plan to begin hikes in February 2010.

Motion for adjournment at 11:09 AM. Motion was seconded and motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,



Carolyn Miller
TTA Secretary