

Tennessee Trails Association
First Quarter Board of Directors Meeting
REI – Brentwood, TN
February 5, 2011

Nora Beck, Tony Jones, Graydon Swisher, David and Shirley Primeau, Anne Wesley, Bob Richards, George and Sarah Bonneau, Marvin Caine, Cheryl Heckler, Millette Jones, Diane Manas, Don Dresser, Ron Dunn, Margaret Smith, Rosemary Marshall, Paul Schwab, Glen Rognstad, Barbie More, Libby Francis, Carolyn Miller, Fount Bertram, Jim Stark, Kathy Sarvis (Cove Lake), John Redmon (Cove Lake)

Visitors: Jim Poteet, Anna Bertram, Ken Johnson.

Meeting was called to order at 12:58 PM by President, Don Dresser.
Introductions were made.

Secretary's Report – Carolyn Miller

A copy of the minutes of November 2010 meeting was passed around for review by the new chapter chairs. **Motion:** Motion to accept as distributed. Seconded and motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Don Dresser

- o Assets of \$38,000 with no liabilities.
- o Cash Flow Statement distributed and reviewed.
- o Currently, on budget.
- o Paypal Membership – people pay into the account. Then it needs to be transferred into the TTA account. Don and Jim Poteet to discuss the details.
- o Budget for 2011
 - o Discussion: SEFTC and TN Conservation Voters.
 - TN Parks and Greenways request for \$300 discussed at November 2010 meeting. Tabled until February 2011 Board meeting. No action taken at the February board meeting.
 - Chapter Support: Based on for each chapter as of January: each chapter receives annual funding of \$2 per member with a minimum of \$100 per chapter.
 - Each chapter must supply an annual report.
 - List of expenses.
 - End of year bank statement.

Audit expenses: CTC pays 80%, TTA pays 20

Motion by Anne Wesley to accept 2011 budget as presented. Second by George Bonneau. Motion carried.

Membership Report – Ron Dunn.

- o Membership decreased from 642 in November 2010 to current membership of 605.
 - o Drop in membership in Highland Rim and Soddy Daisy chapters.
- o Total membership: 605 members.
356 Individuals, 154 Family, 32 Supporting, 8 Student, 51 Life and 4 Family Life.
- o Currently, send out 94 e-mail newsletters. This is an increase.
- o May Board meeting – discuss providing incentive for switching to the e-mail newsletter.
- o Send out 35 VIP newsletters.
- o Need to develop a method to inform e-mail newsletter recipients of the need to renew their annual membership.

- List server addresses: Ron wants to add all new members to the list serve list.
- Draft of Revised Membership form: Nora Beck.
Allows for adding new Sumner chapter and for adding CTC membership.

Reports by Regional Representatives

- **West Tennessee – Graydon Swisher.**
 - Northwest Chapter – doing well. Scott Pun is the leader.
 - Mississippi River Corridor – auto.
 - Trails of Tears signs in Shelby County.
 - Harahan Bridge – would allow for bikes and pedestrians use and connect the greenway on the Arkansas side to the Memphis Bluff trail. (connect West Memphis, AR with Memphis, TN)
- **Middle Tennessee - Nora Beck**
 - No projects underway.
 - Chapters doing well.
 - Hiking opportunity on private land – first Saturday of each month at Cummins Falls in Cookeville. Contact Nora for information.
- **East Tennessee – Levonn Hubbard**
No report.

Reports by Chapter Chairs

- **Dyer County – Jim Stark**
 - Trail work as needed to keep the trail clear of trees fallen due to beaver activity.
 - TTA activities on hold as they are working with Mark Fenton – Olympic Walking team member with “Pioneering Healthy Communities”. Mark Fenton will tour Dyersburg on Tuesday, February 8 to promote walking.
 - Blue Way project underway on Forked Deer River.
- **Clarksville Chapter – Paul Schwab**
 - 8 Saturday hikes through today. Two others cancelled due to weather.
 - Hikes on New Years Eve and Martin Luther King's birthday.
 - Other activities: 2 monthly meetings with speakers.
 - Christmas potluck supper.
 - New Year's Eve party after the New Years Eve hike.
- **East Tennessee – Rosemary Marshall**
 - Enjoyed the annual meeting.
 - January – Joined the Soddy Daisy chapter on three hikes.
 - Hiked three Saturdays in January.
- **Memphis – Margaret Smith**
 - Hiking every week
 - Cancelled January meeting due to illness of the speaker.
 - Have monthly meetings.
 - Social activities: Christmas party and a chili dinner
 - Working with Meeman Shelby Forest to install a bridge.
 - Membership is level.
- **Nashville – Libby Francis**
 - Attendance at meeting is okay.
 - Gift Wrapping event at REI in December - \$350 raised for CTC.
Tony and the CTC display board was used as the backdrop.
 - Joint hike with Sumner Trails in November
 - Host the newsletter compilation party each month.
 - Have access to the bulletin board at REI for May – July – will use to advertise TTA.

- Excellent programs due to Nora Beck's work to get speakers.
- **Highland Rim** – Barbie More
 - Christmas Party
 - Chili Hike (hike at Fiery Gizzard followed by chili)
 - Trail work at Short Springs in January. Plan to work at Short Springs: April 30 and on National Trails Day.
 - Hiked every weekend.
 - Eat Hike Eat is a popular monthly hike.
 - Trying to advertise TTA. Left TTA brochures at the Recreation Center in Tullahoma.
- **Jackson** – Glen Rognstad
 - Recovering from annual meeting.
 - Cancelled hike in December due to snow.
 - December party.
 - Planning April CTC hike
- **Plateau** – Cheryl Heckler
 - Hike every Wednesday. Several have been cancelled due to snow.
 - Fall Trail maintenance on Cumberland Trail.
 - Monthly meetings: alternate meeting with a meeting with a speaker.
 - February speaker – local outdoor store owner.
 - Monthly newsletter published in local newspaper.
 - Have added 10 new members.
 - Contacted members who had allowed their membership to lapse.
 - Goal to form a sub-group of people who only attend short hikes due to health reasons..
 - Have scheduled a hike to Prentice Cooper with Soddy-Daisy in February.
 - Annual meeting in 2013: Most likely Fall Creek Falls in October.
- **Columbia/Franklin** – Marvin Caine
 - December meeting – planned hikes through June
 - Planned for two hikes per month.
 - Monthly meeting.
 - January meeting – Tony Hook spoke about his 2010 hike on the John Muir Trail.
 - Still House Hollow – work day planned for April 2. Plan to build another trail to an overlook.
- **Soddy Daisy** - George Bonneau
 - Meet every other month.
 - Plan to hike two times per week on different days of the week.
 - Repairing a ladder at North Chickamauga that was burned due to an out of control campfire.
 - Plan to work with CTC during Alternative Spring Break.
- **Sumner Trails** - David Primeau
 - 38 members.
 - Joined with a group of hikers associated with a local Presbyterian church.
 - January monthly meeting - Sue Leipers from REI talked about winter hiking gear.
 - January and February – planned for a hike almost every weekend.
 - Focus for 2011: publicity, primarily with local newspaper.
 - Anne Wesley and Al Ballenger – hike coordinators.
 - Brian Bowen, TDEC – State Natural Areas, asked their chapter to assist with trail work at Taylor Hollow north of Nashville.
 - Bob Richards – familiar with the project and says is basically trail maintenance work.
 - Work day scheduled for Feb 9.

- Nashville chapter has volunteered to assist, but work will need to be on the weekend.
- **Cove Lake** - John Redmon
 - No activity except a couple of meetings.
 - Next meeting scheduled at end of February.
 - Plan to hike all 12 months.
- **Murfreesboro** - Tony Jones
 - Planning 2 joint hikes with Soddy Daisy Chapter.
 - Membership Director – Sara Pollard
 - Talking to local newspaper to advertise local hikes – will do a feature article.
 - Actively working on the annual meeting.
 - Hiked with Sumner Trails at Stones River when the trails were officially re-opened.
 - Tuesday, Feb 8 chapter meeting: Tony Hook John Muir hike
 - Trail work at Barfield Crescent Park.

Reports by Affiliate Organizations

- **CTC Report** – Diane Manas.
 - Tony Hook distributed the CTC annual report to the board members by e-mail. It was sent to the board@tennesseetrails.org addresses.
 - CTC schedule of activities is available through the TTA website link.
 - Cumberland Odyssey book – need to designate a month in which to sell these books.

Annual Meeting Report – Don Dresser

- CTC received \$8000 from fundraising during the annual meeting.
 - \$6000 – auction proceeds that were designated for use by CTC by action of the TTA Board.
 - \$2000 – chapter monies donated by Memphis and Jackson chapters to purchase CTC memberships for all persons who attended the 2010 annual meeting.
 - CTC will contact these individuals regarding their membership.
- **MOTION:** That the net proceeds from the 2011 TTA annual meeting auction be donated to the Cumberland Trail Conference for the Spring Breakaway Program. Motion made by Anne Wesley. Seconded and motion carried.

Evan Means Grants - Bob Richards

- Received 8 requests for funding for trail projects.
- Bob reviewed the 8 requests and made recommendations for funding. The grant information and funding recommendations was sent to board members prior to the meeting.
- **Motion** by Carolyn Miller to accept the funding proposal distributed by Bob Richards with the following changes. Motion seconded by Glen Rognstad.
 - WATeR – Fund \$200, TN Parks and Greenway Foundation \$400, and Marble Springs Historical Association \$300.
 - Discussion: Since December 31, 2010, have received a request from Jim Poteet to fund a trails book for the South Cumberland area.
 - **Motion** withdrawn by Carolyn Miller.
- **Motion** by Anne Wesley to increase the funding of Evan Means Grants to \$4,000. Motion seconded by Libby Francis. This will increase the funding for the Friends of Edgar Evins SP to \$500 and allow for \$900 to be donated to the Friends of South Cumberland for a trail guide. Motion carried.

- o TTA to request each group receiving funding to seek a press release to be used to advertise the project and the fact that TTA provided financial support for the project.

Other Grants – Don Dresser

- o SEFTC - \$300 to support the organization.
 - o Tennessee Conservation Voters annual membership.
- Motion** by Libby Francis to fund membership to these two organizations.
Seconded by George Bonneau. Motion carried.

Election of Regional Representative for East Tennessee

- o **Motion** by George Bonneau to elect Levonn Hubbard to serve as the East Tennessee Regional Representative. Motion seconded Rosemary Marshall. Motion carried.

Volunteers needed to assist TTA

- o Associate Webmaster position(s) – Jim Poteet suggests that we have a longer term vision for the website and other communication opportunities.
- o Merchandise position – Candy Higgs is resigning.
- o Treasurer – need a replacement.
- o Don will appoint a nominating committee to seek officers for the 2012 year.

Delegation of authority to CTC

- o **Motion:** That TTA delegate to the Board of Directors of CTC, effective from this date through the first regularly scheduled meeting of the TTA Board of Directors in 2012, the authority to conduct business as an associate organization of TTA, including the power and authority to enter contracts in furtherance of its mission, including contracts with governmental entities, to open and maintain bank and other financial accounts, to make decisions regarding hiring and retention of personnel and to settle claims up to a maximum of \$5000 without further approval of TTA.
- Motion made by Anne Wesley. Second by Nora Beck. Motion carried.

TTA Representative to SEFTC

- o Motion by Paul Schwab to appoint Fount Bertram to continue to represent TTA on the SEFTC. Motion seconded and motion carried.

Dates for TTA 2011 Meetings

- o May 7, 2011 board of directors meeting – Shelby Bottoms, Nashville
- o ☐ August 6, 2011 board of directors meeting
- o ☐ October 28-30, 2011 annual meeting – Dubose Conference Center, Monteagle

Meeting adjourned at 4:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Carolyn Miller
TTA Secretary