

MINUTES
Sun City Anthem Hiking Club
General Membership Meeting
February 7, 2022, 6:30 pm

1. Call Meeting to Order

Susan called the Meeting to order at 6:30 PM on Monday, February 7, 2022.

2. Approve December 6, 2021 Minutes

There were no additions or corrections to the minutes. Carol McLean made a motion the minutes be approved as written; Mike seconded the motion and the membership voted approval.

3. Membership Report - Bernie Wood

Bernie reported that we now have 217 fully paid and oriented members.

4. By-Laws Changes - Susan Dona

a. Explanation of Changes

Addition of the appointment of a Community Outreach Coordinator and a Website Coordinator to serve as non-voting members of the Board.

Addition of a vote by acclamation when only one person is running for office.

b. Request a Motion for Approval

Vicki D'Elia made a motion that the By-Laws Changes be approved as written; Dave Dobmeier seconded the motion.

c. Vote for Approval by Membership

The membership voted approval.

5. New Website Coordinator - Susan Dona

Rita Venditti - background

Rita's education is in technology - Go Daddy and Microsoft are among her past employers. She currently is helping the Parkside Community with their website, which is how Barbara Taylor found her. February 15 will be her official start date as our new website coordinator. Bill Brown will help bring her up to speed with our website so the transition is seamless. While Bill was website coordinator, we can now apply for membership and pay for and renew membership on-line. There have also been a number of background changes,

including simplifying the process of entering hikes and meeting information on the website calendar. We are all very grateful for the many hours of work Bill has donated to us to make our website work more efficiently.

6. Annual Dues Increase

After February 1st the annual dues will be going up to \$30 per person to help pay for the new Website Coordinator position.

7. Trail Work Progress - Greg Waterman

- a. Forest Service - Provided 2 Ramadas that we are in process of erecting at the Picketpost Trailhead at their request.
- b. Arnett Creek - The group has repaired and re-installed a gate; moved rocks; cleared brush; built cairns; installed signs provided either by the town of Superior, the forest service, or the AZ Trail; and we have removed invasive plants in partnership with AZ Wild.
- c. We conducted a Safety class for 7th graders. In return the 7th graders then donated time working on the trail.
- d. Working with the Forst Service - Posted the signs and then after a year in the Arizona sun - and the dry nature of our environment - the trail work crew freshened the signs up by applying teak oil.
- e. The trail work crew spent time cleaning up Arnett Creek, and other trails, following the monsoons.
- f. The trail work crew has blocked off wildcat roads from off-road vehicles.
- g. We will be building a trail of a quarter mile off #4 Road by-pass to reach the Arnett Creek Trail.
- h. The trail work group applied for and received a \$7900 grant. Bill Scott and Chris Burkhart prepared the grant application and it was awarded to us. The money has been used to buy tools to help with our trail work and a trailer to help haul the tools. No funds from the club go to support the trail work we do. It is all volunteer. Most of the volunteers bring their own tools and bags to help with trimming, building trails and clearing brush.
- i. About 30,000 people a year visit the Picketpost Trailhead. This is way for our club to give back to the community that supports the trails we use.

8. Safety Training - Bill Scott

Bill Scott pointed out that 90% of hiking accidents happen while going downhill. This is because going downhill is more dangerous. Bill demonstrated this by having Bruce Odegaard step up on a stool. He pointed out that there were 3

points of contact with the ground while going uphill. Conversely, going downhill your body is suspended in mid-air temporarily over the next step downward. Therefore, if the ground ends up being unstable (as when you step on a rock that rolls beneath your feet), you are more susceptible to a fall. In addition, the hiker is tired when going downhill making their reactions slower. Most hikes go uphill first, reach their goal at the top, celebrate, and then don't take the downhill portion as seriously. The upshot is to take the downhill portion of the hike VERY seriously. Use hiking sticks when the downhill is steep to give you more contact with the ground and increase stability.

9. Cedar Mesa Hike in Utah - Bruce Odegaard

There will be a presentation on March 6th at 3PM in the Union Center Ballroom by the Don Simonis speaking about the areas of interest around Cedar Mesa. All members are invited to attend whether going on the Cedar Mesa trip or not.

On Tuesday, March 22nd, there will be a meeting at the Bear's Ears Recreation Center. On Thursday, there will be a hiking trip to the Upper Sand Islands where there are petroglyphs and ruins.

Bruce said to google House on Fire in Bluff, Utah to get an idea of the sights we'll see on this trip.

10. Presentation - What We Did During COVID

There were presentations by Bernie Wood, Erin Downey (via Bernie Wood), and Gino Loni.

11. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.