

Minutes
Sun City Anthem Hiking Club
Board Meeting
December 15, 2022, 9:00 am

Call Meeting to Order: Susan Dona called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM.

Attending: Susan Dona, Tracy Mecum, Martha Scott, Greg Waterman, Bill Brown, Bernie Wood and David Dobmeier.

Approve November 17th Minutes: Susan asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the Nov 17th Board Meeting. There were none. Greg Waterman made a motion that the minutes be approved as submitted; Dave Dobmeier seconded the motion. The Board Members approved the minutes.

Introduce New Board Members - two-year terms starting January 2023.

a) Robin Bistline - Vice President

b) Martha Scott - Secretary

Susan Dona introduced Martha Scott, Secretary for 2023. Robin Bistline was unable to attend due to her work schedule.

Renewals and current membership: There are currently 232 members in the club, but only 152 members have renewed at this time. Consequently, we may not reach our projected membership on which the 2023 budget was based. We will have to monitor and adjust our 2023 budget as needed. This could also adversely affect our budget for 2024 due to reduced carry-over.

Financial Report and Reports to HOA: Susan handed out the financial report in the Treasurer's absence. She pointed out that we could adjust two areas of the 2023 budget to help with the possible budget shortfall. One area would be in Hiking Supplies, Equipment and Training where the budget may have been over-estimated. The other area would be for Social Events, where we could reduce projected expenditures for 2023 of \$825. In addition, we could sell the Club's InReach units and add the proceeds from the sale to our coffers, plus save \$275 annually in subscription costs. Given that for three years we have struggled to get the hike leaders to embrace the technology, the Board members agreed to sell the two InReach units.

Discuss changing Board Meeting Time: Our new Vice President, Robin Bistline, works for our Union Center during the mornings until 1 PM. She also has CERTS training every third Thursday in the evenings. The Board agreed that we should adjust the usual morning meeting time for the Board to the afternoon. After discussing what time would work best, Tracy Mecum and Martha Scott submitted a change for our Board Meetings to 3:00-5:00PM starting on January 19, 2023.

Discuss changing General Membership Meeting Time: After some discussion of the General Membership Meeting time, the Board agreed to change General Membership Meeting time to 3 PM to 4 PM on the first Monday of the month beginning November 2023. During COVID, we eliminated the meeting in January. With the re-introduction of the Potluck in January (on the 3rd Monday of the month), the Board agreed the January meeting should be added back into the schedule in 2024.

Creation of an Exploratory Hike Group: There was some discussion of creating a group of people in the club who would be interested in going on Exploratory Hikes or Pre-hikes. We have numerous Advanced hikes that need to be explored, and many of our regular hikes need pre-hikes to be sure the leader knows the route and to check to see if there have been any changes after the summer monsoons/fire season that might affect the trail. The Board agreed that this would be beneficial, as it would give members alternative days to hike. Once the new program is ready for implementation, we will announce it to the members and ask those interested to sign-up to participate. A list of interested hikers will be maintained on our website, accessible to members only.

Ideas to Encourage New Membership: The Board had a lively discussion on how to encourage new membership. Ideas supported were:

- Open the February 6th meeting with the speaker on Desert Survival to the community. A select group of members would provide cookies to help promote attendance. Susan will submit an announcement for the Anthem Newsletter.
- Invite Anthem community to participate in a hike to Poston Butte to learn about the Club and hiking in the area. The hike will be broken into small groups with a hike leader. We could have a welcome desk with refreshments at the trailhead to talk about the Hiking Club. An announcement will be posted in the communities weekly newsletter (send copy to Linda Gibson -

lgibson@associatedasset.com - Please note, after the 'l' is a 'g' not a 'q').

Dave could share this information with new homeowners at the monthly New Homeowner Orientation in January.

Bisbee Adventure: The Hike Coordinator's team will travel to Bisbee to explore the potential hikes in the area and activities for Tuesday. The information on the Bisbee Hiking Adventure will be share in the next month or so.

Special Hikes & Speaker:

- We already have the Thanksgiving Cookout as the special hike(s) in November. It was suggested that we also promote the December Luminary Hike in Superior as a special hike that would be organized through the club. We could find a place to gather before the hike and open event to spouses.
- Bill Brown volunteered to provide a Nordic, Scandinavian, Baltic Countries presentation at the November meeting and Greg said he would develop a presentation of Spring/Fall Hiking Adventures at the December meeting.

Venue for Pre-Thanksgiving Cookout Nov 2023: Susan and Greg will visit Usury Mountain County Park to check out their facilities. Their website indicates there are a couple of Ramadas that will accommodate our group. Rental is \$55, cost is \$7 per vehicle to enter the Park. This year's drawing worked out well and we should do the same next year. We will check with a few musicians in our club to ask them to play during our special events.

Miscellaneous

- Erin Downey explored having an event at the Elks Club in January. It turned out that this idea was prohibitively expensive at \$30/person. The Board rejected the idea. We also discussed the Board hosting a taco bar in the Ballroom. The Board felt we might be over-extending ourselves to do it this year. We will reinstitute the potluck in January 2024.
- Bernie asked if we could add a tab to our website to collect the names of people who are willing to volunteer their services and expertise to the club. Bill Brown said if we provided the information we would like and the format it can be done.

- Greg Waterman discussed the new Garden Group that met on Wednesday, December 12 to talk about planting milkweed and other Sonoran Desert plants and reclaiming damaged saguaros. Sam Gomes will be the leader of the group. We may buy a plot in our Community Garden to help with this new project for the club. Greg said he has a contact at the Resolution Copper Mine who could help with planting and caring for the milkweed.

Adjourn: The members agreed to adjourn at 10:58 AM.