

Minutes
Sun City Anthem Hiking Club
General Membership Meeting
Nov 4, 2024, 3:00 PM
Union Center Ballroom

1. Call Meeting to Order

Martha Scott called the meeting to order at 3:57 PM, following the Ice Cream Social for all club members from 3:00 PM to 3:57 PM. Martha thanked Jim and Pam Veire and Bruce and Kim Odegaard for their help in preparing for the ice cream social and for serving the ice cream.

2. Approve March 25, 2024, General Membership Meeting Minutes

Martha asked if there were any additions or corrections to the Minutes of March's General Meeting. No one volunteered any changes, so Robin Bistline moved the minutes be approved as written; Erin Downey seconded the motion; and the membership voted approval.

3. Membership Report – Bernie Wood

Bernie Wood announced that we currently have 219 members, with 40 new members. Bernie also mentioned that, although we have not sent out an announcement of dues for 2025, they are currently due and being accepted.

4. Financial Report – Pam Veire

After subtracting expenses, the current balance for the club is \$5,225.

5. Nominations for Vice President and Secretary

We are now accepting nominations for Vice President and Secretary of the club. It was also noted that Robin Bistline (currently Vice President) and Tracy Mecum (currently Secretary) are willing to continue in their positions for the next two years, if no one else is interested. The election will take place at the December meeting.

6. Survey Results and Actions Taken by the Hiking Club – Kim Odegaard

- a. Several of the people who responded to the survey asked for a hike in the Vegas area, which we held this Fall.

- b. Several requests were made in the survey to conduct a Pinal County Historical hike, which we have scheduled for the Spring of 2025.
- c. It was suggested that we hold some hikes in areas where we spend one night, but not several nights like we have for Page and Zion. The Board discussed and have decided we handle the Spring get-away like this. We also plan to do the Spring get-away in late February rather than scheduling another activity during the busy month of March.
- d. Another suggestion was to have hikes on days other than Wednesday. So, we have set up our special hikes on days other than Wednesday.
- e. It was also suggested we have a s'mores roast. Jack and Mike are working on this event, and we will keep everyone informed.
- f. We have now alphabetized hikes on the website, as was suggested in the survey.
- g. It was suggested we have more speakers at meetings – so we have scheduled Roger Naylor for the Potluck and will look for other possible speakers for an upcoming meeting.
- h. We hadn't done a safety briefing for a while and they were missed, so we have re-scheduled the safety briefings at the General Meetings.
- i. There was some confusion about who to contact to volunteer for different duties with the club, so our website folks have re-designed the Volunteer tab to include the different jobs available and who to contact to volunteer to help.

7. Upcoming Events Update -Bruce Odegaard

- a. Thanksgiving Cookout - November 27
Please sign up for event on-line so there will be a count of attendees to make sure we provide enough food. There will be three hikes available at different levels and delicious food for attendees. There will also be a \$50 gift certificate given out in a raffle. You must be present to win.
- b. Community Hike – December 7 – The event is set up and several hike leaders will be present to guide hikers to the top of Poston Butte. This hike is open to residents who are not members of the Hiking Club, as well as Hiking Club members. Afterwards, there is a Pancake Breakfast presented by our local Fire Department and held in the Safeway Parking Lot. Santa will be present. Participates are asked to bring a new toy to be donated to children in the Florence area.

c. **Potluck – January 27**

This event is rapidly approaching, and Erin Downey has agreed to help organize volunteers and duties. Roger Naylor will speak at the event. Roger has a vast knowledge of the Arizona area and has a wealth of information and humorous stories about our state. It should be a fun evening.

8. Trail Work and Outreach - Greg Waterman

Greg announced that we will be doing Trail Work in several places this year. We will do work in the Superior area near the Airport and in Arnett Creek and Picketpost. Also, the Poston Butte Hiking area is beginning to be developed by the City of Florence. The club will be working with the City to help make this area more attractive and useful to our residents. Friday work groups will begin after the Fall trip. Generally, the trail workers meet in the Parking Lot at the Union Center on Fridays at 7:45 AM. Contact Greg Waterman for more information and to express your interest. His contact information is on the website under Volunteers.

9. Safety Briefing by Bill Scott

Bill pointed out that the most dangerous time in a hike is coming back down for a variety of reasons. One, is because we are more vulnerable when coming downhill since we are standing with only one point of contact with the ground as we descend. For this reason, hiking poles can be helpful and important during descent, since they give us an extra point(s) of contact with the ground. Two, is people are often more relaxed and not as focused when coming downhill because the goal (the top of the hike or the reason for the hike – like visiting ruins or a crested saguaro) has been attained. We celebrate and forget that the most dangerous part of the hike is still ahead. Ninety percent of accidents occur when returning from the hike or at the end of the hike. We are tired and less vigilant. These are all reasons to be more careful especially on the return part of the hike.

10. Sweep Training

Martha let everyone know that there would be a 15-minute Sweep Training after the meeting for anyone interested.

11. Adjourn

Martha asked if there was a motion to adjourn. Bernie Wood made a motion that the meeting adjourn; Chuck Boxrucker seconded the motion. The membership voted to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,
Tracy Mecum