

9/11/09 Sisters Trails Alliance Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 8:05am.

Present: John Rahm, Jeff Sims, Chuck Humphreys, Donna Timmerman, Ken Serkownek, Kirk Flannigan, Bruce Simon, Kim McCarrel, May Fan

Minutes from 8/7/09 were approved.

Treasurer's Report: We currently have \$12,153.48 in the account. \$1600 worth of signs has been ordered. The Forest Service will be reimbursing us for excess funds spent on the environmental assessment (check is in the mail).

Membership Report: With John Rahm joining today, we have a total of 20 members. Discussion was held regarding contacting past donors to solicit more members. Donors include Greg Zadow, Stuart Weitzman, Mike Ilg, Kathy Deggendorfer, Warren Rice, Jerry Norquist, Bill Willitts, Scott Michalek, David Banks, Bryn Hazell, Gary Berne and Trudy Zeller of Portland, and _____ Kuntz-Shaffer. May circulated an old phone list of interested people who signed up many years ago at our first public trails meetings. If people have e-mail addresses of the people on this list, please give them to Donna.

Trails Celebration Cancelled: No one volunteered to take the lead on planning a trails celebration this October 3rd; however, it was felt that an alternative would be a monthly bike ride and/or horse ride with one or two people leading, starting next spring. Chuck and Kim are willing to lead rides. Jeff and Gene reminded people that last year's trails celebration on National Trails Day (6/5/08) involved a lot of work but the turn-out was low. Chuck and John will work on a kids' mountain bike ride on Peterson Ridge with gifts to be provided by IMBA (International Mountain Bike Association).

Jen's Garden Fundraising Dinner: Jen has graciously offered to cook for 30 people at no charge; she and chef T.R. are providing a five-course meal and Emily at Cork Cellars is providing wine at cost. The subcommittee of Donna, Ken, Marie, Sarah Rahm and May have set the charge at \$85 per person which includes gratuity; wine will be extra. The date is Tuesday evening October 6 at 6:30 pm. An invitational flyer has been e-mailed to John's list of people who have volunteered on the Peterson Ridge Trail. May requested that each of us send names and e-mail addresses of other potentially interested folks to Donna, who will send out more invitations to the dinner. Black Butte Ranch residents will receive an invitation via their monthly electronic newsletter. May will invite Sisters Kiwanis and Sisters Rotary clubs at their weekly meeting.

At the dinner, Donna and Sarah Rahm will serve. Ken and Bruce will help with clean-up. Bruce will ask his wife Christina if she wants to help. Ken is working on procuring silent auction items.

Peterson Ridge Trail Update: John has been finishing up the trail by the rim with the help of Rob Corrigan and Bruce Simon, and there is one more work party 9/26 following

work on the Whychus Creek trail. Next spring, signposts will be placed on the upper section of trail. Some electrical work is being done at the Buck Run trailhead area. Chuck talked to Brad Grimm who is willing to add gravel to the south side of Tyee, which would improve the parking situation. The city right-of-way is 80 feet. John may need to talk to his neighbors about this issue.

Gene's son Garrett Trahern was featured in a Nugget article about his Eagle Scout project, which is a technical section of trail at Eagle Rock. Gene reported that the high school cross-country team has already run this new trail. It is 90% done and should be finished after the work party 9/12/09. Kudos to John and Garrett!

Publicity: Bruce suggested getting Sisters Trails maps to the bike shops in Bend; John proposed waiting until the final map is done. Kim recommended that maps be given to tack and feed stores. Kirk suggested laminating a map (at Pony Express?) to give to each store.

To reach out to the hiking community, it was suggested that we get a liaison to attend our STA meetings. May will contact Craig Eisenbeis, who has been writing articles for the Nugget on local hikes. Dave Bond was mentioned as a potential liaison from Crossroads.

Kim states the Powerpoint presentation is just about ready. She will send it to May, who will give the presentation to the Sisters Kiwanis Club in October, and to Gene who will present to Rotary.

Kirk suggested contacting the Chamber of Commerce, attending a Mix n Mingle. John noted that Erin Borla with the Chamber, and the Planning and Public Works staff have been supportive, more so than the City Council. Gene proposed inviting Erin to our STA meeting; Jeff's idea was that we could attend the chamber meeting. Kim offered to e-mail a short memo about STA to Erin who could then e-mail all the local business owners. Ken will talk to Erin about our thoughts.

Community Trails Plan Update: At a subcommittee meeting last month of Jeff, John, Kim and Annemarie, it was decided that an update would serve the purpose of identifying stakeholders and bringing in new members, marketing the Sisters Trails Alliance to the community and increasing awareness, as well as determining the goals of the community. Jeff pointed out that trails in the first plan were identified but have not been built due to lack of an active advocate (e.g., Crossroads to high school trail). Jeff proposed a kick-off public meeting around the first week of November, preceded by distribution of a questionnaire similar to the original one which asked for age, desired trail location/type, goal (recreation vs. commuting). Some specific questions we may ask are: Do we want to expand out of the 6-mile range? Consider a trail to Bend? Do more within city limits? Pave the Tollgate or other trails? Which trails have highest priority?

Trail Maintenance: Gene has a list of low priority items. Once chain saws are allowed, some trees need to be cleared from the foot trail at Whychus Creek. There is a work party on Saturday 9/26 being held in conjunction with the National Forest Foundation to work on the Whychus Creek trail. Volunteers are to meet at 9am at the Village Green.

Chuck noted that Tim and Marie Clasen are already doing trail maintenance in that area, on their own.

Poker Run: This year's event on 10/17 is drawing runners from several different states but so far not as many people have signed up. Last year there were 45 runners. Gene requests the help of 4 or 5 volunteers at about 8am at the Village Green.

Kirk would like to address signage; this was tabled and will be placed on next meeting's agenda.

Tools: John noted that some Mcleods have been damaged and only one Pulaski is available. Heavy-duty steel rakes are needed. The process to buy tools involves having the business send an invoice to us and then having SPRD write a check.

Five Pine Connector Trail: Five Pine requested that STA write a letter in support of their proposed half-mile singletrack trail, which would connect Five Pine to our trail network. According to Jeff, state law protects landowners from liability. There is already a trail from the athletic club connecting to Peterson Ridge so the trail would only benefit Five Pine, and they are presumably building it themselves, or hiring a firm to build it. It was agreed that we would provide the requested letter. John offered to draft it and submit it to the group for its approval; the letter will suggest the need for an equestrian trail through the same corridor.

STA Website: The website has not been updated in some time. Please e-mail Gene with comments.

BPAC Update: International Walk and Bike to School Day is October 7. Kim Curley of Commute Options is seeking volunteers to help out in Sisters.

Chuck reported that Cloverdale Road is being repaved next year and he agreed to draft a letter lobbying the county to widen it so that it is suitable for bike traffic.

The next BPAC meeting is in Sisters at City Hall on October 1 from 12-2pm. Chuck encouraged the group to attend if possible.

Minutes respectfully submitted by May Fan.

Next meeting: Friday October 2, 8am at SPRD