

Trails West Board Meeting March 12, 2022

ZOOM 9 a.m.

The meeting was called to order by Ed Otto, President, at 9:00 a.m.

Board of Directors present: Ed Otto, Bill Bishell, Dave Freeman, Steve Knight.
Absent: Jim O'Callaghan. Officers present: Linda Black, treasurer, and Jo Johnston, secretary. Committee Chairs present: Steve Whitehorn, membership; Steve Overaker, website; Bob Black, publications. Bob Carlton, newsletter.
Other general members present: Meg Zbierski, Jon Nowlin, Jim Stone

There were no changes or additions to the agenda.

**Bill Bishell made a motion to approve the minutes of December 11, 2021.
Steve Knight seconded. All in favor.**

I. Reports of Officers

- A. Treasurer: Linda Black explained there is little change for the two months. (See attached Profit and Loss Statement January through February 2022)
- B. Secretary: Jo Johnston reported that all minutes and reports dating back to 2008 have been scanned to a flash drive as a backup to hard copies in secretarial storage and those available on the website.

II. Reports of Standing Committees:

- A. Publications: (see attached) Bob Black reported plans to revise two driving guides in 2022—Beckwourth Trail, Hastings Cutoff. A guide for Big Tree Road is also planned for completion. Revisions of both guidebooks to California Trail have been completed. A new guidebook, Guide to the Truckee Trail is currently being worked on, with hopes to be completed by December 2022.
- B. Guidebook inventory and sales: (see attached) Linda Black reported 36 books have been sold so far this current year.
- C. Membership: (see attached reports) Steve Whitehorn reported that there are 188 members as of today. He included a listing of those who are Honorary members and those who are Sustaining member.
- D. Rail marker maintenance: Bill Bishell reported for Jim O'Callaghan. Jim keeps a binder with information of marker maintenance. Bill said that in addition to himself, Jim Stone, Frank Zbierski, Roger and Karen Gash, and Tom and Jeanne Young have gone out on part of the

Carson and the Truckee routes renewing the California triangle and "Join Us" stickers as needed. All info, such as this, should be shared with Jim to put in the book so as avoid duplications of efforts. This topic will be put on the agenda for the May meeting.

- E. Trail trips: Bill Bishell: There are several marker maintenance trips and inspection in fire areas in the planning stages for this year, dates to be determined later. Price of gas may affect turn out and locations. Some possible trips include: Ken Johnston is planning to lead a Lassen Trails trip, which might include Burnett Cutoff, August 1-5; Larry Schmidt may lead a one-day trip on Johnson Cutoff; Dalia Greenhalgh would like to lead a hiking trip on part of Carson Trail; Roger Gash may try to do a one-day on Hastings Cutoff; Dave Freeman may do one in Lassen Rancho area. Jon Nowlin is hoping to do a one-day trip to metal detect a section of swale on the Truckee Cutoff, starting in Fernley that has never been mapped. He is working with BLM to set a date, possibly late May or early June. Bill wants/needs people to volunteer to lead trips, even if just to do a section of a trail rather than an entire trail.
- F. There were no reports in this meeting for: Membership outreach, Rail marker preparation, or Publicity, which is a vacant seat.

III. Reports of Appointed Positions:

- A. Historian. The position is currently vacant since Don Buck's resignation.
- B. Newsletter, *The Marker*: Bob Carlton said a special "Legacy Edition" issue will be forthcoming. There was discussion as to whether it should be an additional issue or be the primary focus of the regular spring issue. Since there are so many items regarding Trails West's operation, trips, events, etc. the consensus was that there should be a separate issue. Bob indicated he is willing to add an issue. Kristen, Bob's daughter, plays a major role in the publication. We were pleased when she briefly came in to introduce herself to us.
- C. Webmaster: (See attached report) Steve Overaker's report told of his transition into the position, thanking Bill Bishell for his efforts in that process. It gave details of some of the changes/improvements he's made. He has added some applications to help monitor activity and said in February there were 800 views. He stressed the need for material that he can add.

IV. Unfinished Business

A. Nomination Committee: Bill Bishell said there are three seats to be filled: his, Steve Knight, and Jim O'Callaghan. Steve has indicated he will run again, but the other two will need to be replaced. Bill has received bios for several candidates who must all be approved by the board. Bill will send the bios of the candidates to Ed, who will conduct an Executive session within the next few days for an online vote to approve the candidates. The election will then be held by mid-April. A mass email will be sent to general membership announcing the upcoming election and that they will be contacted by ElectionBuddy with instructions on how to vote electronically.

B. Banquet: (See detailed attached reports) Steve Knight gave a full report of the agenda for the upcoming conference, scheduled May 16-18 at the Carson Valley Inn in Minden, Nevada. There followed a lengthy discussion as to the amount of the total cost Trails West would subsidize and how much the registration fee per person should be. **Bill Bishell made a motion that the registration fee, which would include all activities, coffee service, snacks, banquet, and entertainment will be \$35 per person. Trails West will pick up the balance of the costs. Dave Freeman seconded. All in favor.**

Another topic of discussion was regarding what forms of payment would be accepted. The final decision was that for this convention payment would only be by checks mailed to Linda Black. Perhaps PayPal will become an option at some time in the future.

There was discussion to do away with silent and live auctions, etc., and do only a raffle, with tickets available for purchase at the registration table. There was general consensus. To donate a raffle item, contact Lisa Whitehorn, who will head it up. A notice will be included in *The Marker* and on the website. Meg Zbierski will assist Linda Black at the registration check in.

V. New Business

A. Ed Otto presented the idea of an annual payment of \$1,000 be made to Kristen Carlton for her professional work editing *The Marker*. **Bill Bishell moved that Trails West pay \$1,000 annually to Kristen Carlton and include a nice letter thanking her. Steve Knight seconded. All in favor.** To avoid the need for a 1099 Linda Black will write two \$500 checks, one from the general account and the other from the publishing account.

- B. Ed Otto introduced the need to cover costs of supplies needed to protect the saw. **Steve Knight moved that \$100 be paid to Tom Dougherty to purchase supplies necessary to protect the saw from the elements. Dave Freeman seconded. All in favor.**
- C. Historian appointed position: There was an in depth discussion as to the purpose of the position and the need to retain the position. It was decided to keep the position open until it can be filled by someone in the future. This will be on the agenda for a future meeting.
- D. Authorized stickers on Trails West markers: Some "foreign" stickers have been found on some. There are only two authorized: a rectangular one with the QR code that directs to our website, and California triangular one.

VI. Good of the Order

Linda Black expressed appreciation to the two "new Steves," Steve Whitehorn and Steve Overaker, for their contributions to the organization. All others attending the meeting enthusiastically agreed.

VII. Adjournment: **Steve Knight moved to adjourn the meeting. Bill Bishell seconded. All in favor.** The meeting ended precisely at 12:00 p.m.

Submitted by: Jo Johnston, Secretary