

PHC Steering Committee Minutes - Meeting of 7-24-17

Following are the minutes of the 7-24-17 meeting of the Prescott Hiking Club Steering committee(aka SC or the Committee). The meeting took place at the home of Joanne Polayes, and the following members were in attendance:

Ellen Arkin, Cindy Cassady, Louis Mackall, Jim Perry, Joanne Polayes, Vicki Reber, and Jim Smith

The meeting began at 9:30 am and adjourned at 10:30 am.

Previous Meeting Minutes: The minutes of the 5-8-17 meeting were approved without changes.

Items Completed:

A. Budget: The PHC treasurer, Karen Weschung, was traveling so not present. Jim Perry said there were not many new expenses, just \$19 for the web site URL and \$159 for the June picnic. It was agreed the budget would be discussed in more detail at the November SC meeting when Karen can be present.

B. Prescott Peaks Hiking Event: Vicki Reber reported that the organization sponsoring this event has cancelled it for this year.

C. June Picnic Review: Ellen Arkin reported that there was a good turnout for the picnic. The Social Committee felt it worked well to have their members bring the desserts to avoid having too many. A future event being discussed is a breakfast/kayak/boating event at Lynx Lake that will be scheduled as weather permits. A two-week prior notice will be sent out to members. There will also be a fall picnic in early October.

D. Prescott Trails Planning Meeting Review: Louis Mackall, who attended this meeting in May, reported over 100 people were there, mostly bicycle and horse riders, with few hikers. Representatives of the City of Prescott, the Prescott National Forest, and a national forest group from Cottonwood made presentations on future trails planned. A new off-road motorized trail is being planned near 7-mile Gulch. There are also plans to extend Black Canyon trail to the Verde River and eventually connect it to the Circle Trail. Better parking and more information at trail heads are also planned.

E. Trail Maintenance Day: Louis also mentioned that it is Forest Service policy that new hiking trails cannot be added to the area unless current trails are maintained. As the Forest Service depends on community volunteers to maintain the trails, it was agreed that the Club should schedule another trail maintenance day in the fall. Vicki Reber agreed to contact the Forest Service to schedule a day. Information regarding this will be sent to all club members a few weeks before the date.

F. Upcoming Campouts: It was brought up by Joanne Polayes that a possible campout in Ouray, Colorado, is being considered, as well as one in Durango. There was some SC discussion about whether these sites need to be pre-hiked by the leaders or not. It was generally agreed that it is up

to the leader or sponsor of the campout whether they feel they need to check out the trails prior to the campout or not.

G. Hike Leaders Still Needed: Jim Perry brought up the issue that hike leaders are still needed and that often no hikes are scheduled. It was felt that getting hike leaders was more effective in the past when the club had quarterly meetings where people signed up to lead hikes. It was agreed that time would be set aside and the hike schedule provided at the fall picnic for this purpose.

H. New Hike Leader Approach: Jim Perry also suggested that when no hike has been scheduled, that we go ahead and post a destination hike and a leader would be picked from those people who show up. The SC members approved trying this idea, and Jim volunteered to work with Ellen Bank to pick a hike destination and post it for the next Thursday that no hike has been scheduled. More information will be sent to club members about this approach.

I. Stopping at Trail Junctions: It was brought up that on a hike in June, two members of the club missed a turn on the trail as they were behind the lead group, but ahead of another following group (out of sight of both), and didn't realize they were supposed to turn at a trail junction. (They were later able to communicate by phone and were safely picked up by car at a different road.) The SC wants to remind all hike leaders that it's important to wait at trail junctions for the hikers behind to catch up so everyone knows when to take a different trail. It's also important to assign a "sweep" hiker to be at the end of the group to make sure no straggler is left behind and that everyone is OK. There have been occasions recently when hikers have had to turn back, so it's important to have someone be aware of how hikers are feeling.

J. Next Meeting: The next Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 6, 9:00 am at Jim Perry's home.

K. Agenda Items for the Next Meeting:

- Review budget
- Review trail maintenance event
- Review fall picnic
- Review hike leader situation
- Plan election of new SC members

Important Dates:

October - Fall Picnic

October 28 - Trail Maintenance Day

November 6 - Steering Committee Meeting

Your Steering Committee: Ellen Arkin, Cindy Cassady, Louis Mackall, Jim Perry, Joanne Polayes, Vicki Reber, and Jim Smith