



NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
of
THE ARIZONA STATE COMMITTEE
ON TRAILS (ASCOT)
of
THE ARIZONA STATE PARKS BOARD

Notice is hereby given to members of the Arizona State Committee on Trails (ASCOT) and the general public that the Committee will hold a meeting open to the public on **Friday, May 21, 2010 beginning at 1:00 p.m. at the Tonto Natural Bridge State Park, 10 mi N. of Payson, Hwy 87, Payson, AZ 85547** pursuant to A.R.S. § 41-511.22. The Committee may go into Executive Session for the purpose of obtaining legal advice from the State Parks Assistant Attorney General on any of the agenda items pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431 et seq. The Committee will discuss and may take action on the following matters:

Janice K. Brewer
Governor

State Parks
Board Members

Chair
Reese Woodling
Tucson

Tracey Westerhausen
Phoenix

Larry Landry
Phoenix

Walter D. Armer, Jr.
Vail

Alan Everett
Sedona

William C. Scalzo
Phoenix

Maria Baier
State Land
Commissioner

Renée E. Bahl
Executive Director

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AGENDA
(The Chair reserves the right to set the order of the agenda.)

- A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**
- B. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS AND STAFF**
- C. ACTION ITEMS**
 - 1. Approval of Minutes from the January 23, 2010 Meeting.**
 - 2. Status Update on Arizona State Park Budget, Staffing and Trail Funds.** Staff will provide an update on the Arizona State Parks administered trail funds and the overall agency budget situation.
 - 4. Determine the ASCOT 2010 State Trails System Subcommittee.** The Committee will vote in a 5-member State Trails System Subcommittee.
 - 5. Review of ASCOT Subcommittee Goals for 2010 and Effective Methods of Reaching Goals.** The Committee will review the goals determined for the Subcommittees including:
 - Workshops
 - State Trails System Nominations/Promotion
 - Outreach/Website/Communications

The Committee may also consider developing new projects and will discuss the most effective methods of reaching goals with staffing limitations at State Parks.

6. Member Roundtable. ASCOT members will share trail planning, projects and activities that they are involved with to further learn about trail happenings around the state.

D. REPORTS—Committee and staff reports may be written or verbal and followed by brief discussion.

1. Reports

a. Staff Reports

Potential Americorps Member to Assist Trail Education Efforts

b. Chair's Report

E. CALL TO THE PUBLIC - During the public meeting, the Committee may afford any person the opportunity to present statements relating to agenda items, with or without the opportunity to present them orally. Those wishing to address the Committee must register at the door and be recognized by the Chair. Time permitting; each presentation will be given approximately five minutes. It is probable that each presentation will be limited to one person per organization. Action taken as a result of public comment will be limited to directing staff to study or re-schedule the matter for further consideration at a later time.

F. SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS, MATTERS OF BOARD PROCEDURE, REQUESTS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS.

G. TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

H. ADJOURNMENT

A copy of the agenda background material provided to the Committee is available for public inspection at Arizona State Parks, Resources Management Section, 1300 W. Washington, Phoenix, Arizona. Additional information may be obtained by contacting Annie McVay at (602) 542-7116.

Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation such as a sign language interpreter, or this document in an alternative format, by contacting Nicole Armstrong-Best, at 602-542-7152. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation.

Annie McVay, Arizona State Parks

**MINUTES
of the
ARIZONA STATE COMMITTEE ON TRAILS (ASCOT)
of
ARIZONA STATE PARKS (ASP)
Meeting of January 23, 2010**

A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

ASCOT Members Present: Kent Taylor, Chair
Maureen DeCindis
Tom Fitzgerald
Lisa Marie Gerdl
Jim Horton
Anna Pfender
Linda Slay
Heather Wasgatt
Bruce Weidenhamer

ASCOT Members Absent: Reba Grandrud
Brian Grube
Daye Halling
Nick Lund
Mary McMullen

Arizona State Parks (ASP) Staff:
Annie McVay, State Trails Coordinator

B. NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION – ASCOT
Kent Taylor, Chair and Ms. McVay orientated the new ASCOT members on the history of ASCOT, its mandates and activities.

C. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

D. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS AND STAFF

E. Presentation by Picacho Peak Park Staff on the park and/or Pinal County Planning Staff on trail planning efforts in the area.
Mr. Taylor provided an overview of the Pinal County Trails Plan, including a map of the existing and proposed trails within the County.

F. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes from the October 17, 2009 Meeting.
Mr. Horton moved to approve the minutes from October 17, 2009. Ms. Slay seconded, the motion passed.

G. ACTION ITEMS

1. Discussion of Arizona State Parks Budget Issues.

In February of 2009 the budget was cut to \$27 million dollar and in July 2009 the budget was cut again to \$19 million dollars. At \$19 million about half the Parks system was operating on a seasonal basis, some were closed, others were only open five days a week and a couple were functional due to other partners stepping up and providing assistance in order to keep the park open. Ms. McVay noted that just before Christmas the Governor signed a budget bill that brought additional \$8.6 million in cuts to State Parks.

These cuts will bring at least an additional 30% reduction in staff (which is currently at a 40% reduction rate from a year ago). In addition to the reduction in force, it will result in a closure of much of the park system.

Four parks remain closed due to previous budget reductions.

Parks will be closed in a phased sequence starting on February 22, 2010 and include Homolovi Ruins State Park in Winslow, Lyman Lake State Park in St. Johns and Riordan Mansion State Historic Park in Flagstaff.

The next park closings will occur on March 29, 2010 and will include Fort Verde State Historic Park in Camp Verde, Roper Lake State Park in Safford, Tombstone Courthouse State Historic Park, Yuma Territorial Prison State Historic Park and Tubac Presidio State Historic Park.

The final phased closings will occur on June 3, 2010 and will include Tonto Natural Bridge State Park near Payson, Alamo Lake State Park in Wenden, Lost Dutchman State Park in Apache Junction, Picacho Peak State Park and Red Rock State Park in Sedona.

2. Update on Trails Workshop.

Ms. McVay reported that the Trail Workshop Planning Committee met in December and had productive meeting. The workshop has been scheduled for May 22, 2010 at the Pine Cultural Center in Pine, AZ. The facility has a big room, kitchen and outdoor area that will meet the needs of the workshop.

The Planning Committee will outline the curriculum at a meeting later this month.

3. Discuss ASCOT's Goals, Structure and Focus for the Upcoming Years.

The Committee outlined and discussed the activities for the year:

Subcommittee	Members	Goal
State Trails System (STS) Nominations	To be decided at April 2010 meeting.	To review and recommend trail nominations for inclusion in the STS to the Arizona State Parks Board
Workshop/Conference on Volunteerism	Brian Chris John Linda Daye Bruce Cate	To develop a one-day workshop focusing on trail volunteering
Member Recruitment	To be determined.	Recruit potential ASCOT members and recommend to the Parks Board which applicants are best to serve.
Website/Communications/Social Media	Linda Daye Chris Brian Bruce	Review existing STS webpage, available trail information and explore ideas for further marketing or social media.
ASCOT Members STS Picks	Linda John Don (all ASCOT)	ASCOT members choose a trail in the STS to highlight on the website.

H. PRESENTATIONS

1. Open Meeting Law and Conflict of Interest.

Ms. McVay summarized the major points of the Arizona Open Meeting Law (OML) and Conflict of Interest as it most pertains to advisory committees of the State Parks Board. She indicated that a full copy of OML is available on the ASCOT cd.

Two main emphasis of the OML is setting quorum and communication among members. As an advisory committee of the State Parks Board, ASCOT is a governmental entity and needs to comply with OML. This means that all business of the ASCOT needs to be conducted in a way that is open to the public. The public is required to know where and when ASCOT is meeting and what ASCOT is discussing:

- All ASCOT meetings and Subcommittee meetings need to be agendaized at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting in the Arizona State Parks lobby. Ms. McVay takes the lead on agendaizing most meetings and will assist any member in agendaizing a meeting.
- A quorum (a simple majority) is required for ASCOT to take action, this equals at least 8 members. Staff will send out a quorum call prior to the quarterly meetings. If a quorum is not achieved, the meeting will not be held. It is important that you respond to the quorum call.
- Members should be careful not to discuss ASCOT business outside of ASCOT meetings. A common violation of OML is through email use. If an ASCOT member sends out information to the Committee through email and another members 'replies all' then a quorum of ASCOT has discussed business that was not agendaized. A member may send one-way communication to the whole Committee but do not respond to these emails. Two ways to avoid accidentally violating OML is a) have Staff send out information or b) put the addresses in bcc field so 'reply all' is not an option.

The main area ASCOT members should be concerned with in regards to Conflict of Interest is:

- Any project or subject where a member has a fiduciary interest. For example, if a member is working on a trail project that may be applying for a grant or the State Trails System, it could be considered a conflict of interest for that member to vote on those matters. The members should recuse themselves from voting on any item related to a trail matter in which they have a fiduciary interest.

Ms. McVay reiterated this was a brief discussion highlighting main areas of the OML and Conflict of Interest. ASCOT members should review the full information provided. Members can contact staff or the State Parks Assistant Attorney General representative with any questions.

I. CALL TO THE PUBLIC - None.

J. SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS, MATTERS OF BOARD PROCEDURE, REQUESTS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS.

K. TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING
Friday, May 21, 2010 at Tonto Natural Bridge State Park

L. ADJOURNMENT
Chair Taylor adjourned the meeting at 12:40.

**Review of ASCOT Subcommittee Goals for 2010
and Effective Methods of Reaching Goals.**

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