

MINUTES
of the
ARIZONA STATE COMMITTEE ON TRAILS (ASCOT)
of
ARIZONA STATE PARKS (ASP)
Meeting of March 02, 2012

A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Meeting was called to order at 10:15 am.

ASCOT Members Present:

Kent Taylor, Chair	Linda Slay
Nick Lund	Bruce Weidenhamer
Tom Fitzgerald	Phyllis Ralley
Lisa Marie Gerdl	Ryan Domsalla
Anna Pfender	Daniel Gronseth
Bill Gibson	

ASCOT Members Absent:

Loren Worthington	Matt Kalina
Reba Grandrud-Wells	

Arizona State Parks (ASP) Staff: Robert Baldwin

B. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS AND STAFF

C. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

D. ACTION ITEMS

1. Approval of Minutes from the October 12, 2011 meeting.

The Chair called for any objections to the October 12, 2011 meeting minutes. Linda Slay and Bill Gibson sought clarification that the Trail Plan was evaluated every 5 years and Robert Baldwin confirmed the plan timeline. Bruce Weidenhamer sought clarification that the State Parks Board still supports ASCOT as an advisory committee and Robert Baldwin confirmed their support from the November 2011 State Parks Board meeting. Hearing no other objections to the October 12, 2011 meeting minutes the Chair called for a motion to approve the minutes with Nick Lund leading the first and Bill Gibson the second, all members voted aye and the minutes are approved.

2. ASCOT will consider the recommendation from the Membership Committee to move Lisa Marie Gerdl from a Trail-User Group position to a Citizen-at-Large Position.

The Chair called for any objections to the Motion to move Lisa Marie Gerdl to a vacant Citizen-at-Large position. Hearing no objections to the Motion meeting minutes the Chair called for a motion to approve the recommendation with Linda Slay leading the first and Nick Lund the second, all members voted aye and the motion is approved.

3. ASCOT will consider the recommendation from the Membership Committee for new ASCOT Members and make a recommendation to the State Parks Board.

The Chair called for any objections to the Motion to recommend Laurel Arndt, Richard Kesselman, Jarod Rogers, Jackie Keller, and Laddie Cox for membership to ASCOT. Daniel Gronseth asked if there is conflict with Jarod Rogers being from the same Agency and after discussion it was decided there is no conflict as no other agency applied for a position. Hearing no objections to the Motion the Chair called for a motion to approve the recommendation with Tom Fitzgerald lending the first and Bill Gibson the second, all members voted aye and the motion is approved.

4. ASCOT will review the recommendations of the Trails Nomination Subcommittee for trails to be included I the State Trails System and approve a recommendation to be forwarded to the State Parks Board for final approval.

The Chair called for any objections to the Motion to recommend those trails selected by the Trails Nomination Subcommittee to be approved and forwarded to the State Parks Board for approval at the March 21, 2012 meeting. The group discussed the application by Avondale for the Monument Hill Trail which currently does not have all property owners signed and approved for the trail application which is required. After a brief discussion it was recommended with Linda Slay lending the first and Nick Lund the second that Monument Hill Trail be forwarded to the State Parks Board for approval if Avondale can secure the approval and signature of all property owners no later than March 20, 2012. Hearing no objections to the Motion the Chair called for a vote, all members voted aye and the motion is approved.

The Trails Nomination Subcommittee would like to propose returning to a timeline close to the original trail nomination submission period with application due by late July. Applications would be solicited in April/May of a given year and due by the last Friday of July within a given year. Robert Baldwin commented that if ASCOT wished to alter the timeline they should make a recommendation to the State Parks Board before the November 2012 meeting.

5. Staff will ask for suggestions from ASCOT concerning a competitive Grant Program for trail projects using Federal Recreational Trails Program funds.

Robert Baldwin advised ASCOT that funds are currently available for allocation as not all of the RTP funds awarded have been utilized. FUTS has not yet completed the NEPA requirement and have not used their awarded funds, and the BCT completed their trail project without using their awarded funds. Robert Baldwin estimated the available funds to be approximately \$1.5 Million. Robert Baldwin asks ASCOT if ASCOT wishes to set a cap on project awards, and what requirement(s) does ASCOT want for applications to be eligible for funding awards. Bruce Weidenhamer asked ASP if there was any project funding guidance and Robert Baldwin cited www.stateparks.com/OHV/projectfunding as a resource.

After discussion the group came to a consensus that a \$40, 000/project for trail maintenance and a \$100,000/project for new construction would be the maximum award available for application that met all criteria. Applications would be rated on a points system using the Trails Plan as guidance. The group agreed that maintenance is still a priority over new construction at this time.

6. Update on the 2013 International Trails Symposium .

Tom Fitzgerald passed out literature regarding the upcoming Symposium in 2013 including volunteer application packets and sponsor applications. Several committees are in progress and active fundraising is underway. For information visit www.americantrails.org

7. Member Roundtable.

Kent: Casa Grande Mountain Park officially opened in November 2011. Trail is currently 15 miles with another trail crew expected to take trail to 20 miles.

Nick: Volunteers at the Boyce Thompson Arboretum have to track their volunteer hours. ASCOT members should report to Nick and estimation of the time they spend on ASCOT. At the ASP Advocacy day HB2362 was discussed. HB2362 is a proposal to create a State Park Revenue Fund from fees generated in the Park that would stay within the Parks system. Showlow Bluff was recently completed which is trail on private property with the developer funding the gates at trailhead.

Bill: The trails database is in progress and may take several years to compile all the trails into one resource. Currently an intern is working on the project.

Bruce: VoAZ along with the AZT did training recently for trail stewards in construction and maintenance with a re-route completed.

Dan: City of Phoenix has a new trail rating system including heat components.

Anna: AZT celebrated 02.04.12, and trail was completed on 12.16.11. AZT has a new executive director.

Linda: BCT is about to start on trailhead construction at Big Bug and Black Canyon City. BCT is about to start a trail steward program.

Ryan: BAER Assessment is complete, see handout. 44 miles of trail still needs assessment, many of the State Trail System trails have been significantly affected, and Escudilla is currently the only 'no access' area with other areas released to use as 'high risk'.

E. Time and place of next meetings and call for future agenda items.

The next meeting is the Annual Meeting with OHVAG on April 06, 2012. The tentative location is downtown Phoenix.

Nick Lund called for discussion to consider forgoing the Fall 2012 Workshop in lieu of having a Workshop during the 2013 Trails Symposium.

Bruce Weidenhamer called for consideration of his *New Member Letter* to be included in the ASCOT Member packet provided to new members.

F. Adjournment

The Chair called for adjournment of the meeting. Upon hearing no objections to the adjournment of the meeting the meeting was adjourned at 1:05 pm.