

TIDEWATER APPALACHIAN TRAIL CLUB

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Monthly Meeting

April 3, 2024

Members Present:

John Barnes, Bill Bunch, Sandra Canepa, Bruce Davidson, Andy Grayson, Paul Heymann, Lee Lohman, Mike Martin, Kaci Midgette, Kama Mitchell, Jim Newman, Greg Reck, Jim Sexton, John Sima, Lelia Vann, Don Williams

Members Absent:

Brittany Collins, Kevin Dubois, Greg Hodges, Ned Kuhns, Sharon Salyer, Peg Seriani, Rich Seriani

Others Present:

Lucas Spinella

1. **Welcome and Call to Order:** The meeting, with a quorum, was called to order by President Vann at 7:00 p.m.
2. **Proceedings of Previous Meeting:** The March 2024 Board meeting minutes were accepted without amendment.
3. **Finance:** Andy Grayson presented the Treasurer's report. Andy noted that almost all of the expenses this month were for our various electronic tools (AffiniPay, MoneyMinder, MeetUp and Garmin), but income continued to be fairly high as we are still in our legacy Membership Renewal season. Balance: February 2024: \$39,119.38. Current balance is \$39,803.86.
4. **Membership:** Kama Mitchell presented the Membership report. February 2024: 447 members. Current membership is 452 members.
5. **Reported/Discussed:**
 - A. **Trail Supervisor Report - John Sima, Trail Supervisor**
 - March 22-24: Sherando Cleanup. Huge success w/27+ volunteers.
 - Evan Brown/Tye River Ridgerunner starts 4/23 & will attend our Spring Maintenance on 4/27 weekend
 - April 12-14: Spring Backpacking Walk thru
 - April 26-28: Spring Maintenance
 - June 7-9: Swingblade & Lopperfest #1
 - July 12-14: Swingblade & Lopperfest #2
 - August 9-11: Swingblade & Lopperfest #3
 - October 11-13: Fall Backpacking Walk thru
 - October 25-27: Fall Maintenance
 - AT Spring Maintenance Dinner Report - Lee Lohman, Lead**
 - B. **Cabin Report - Gregory Hodges/Kevin DuBois, Cabin Committee**
 - Need help leading June & November Maintenance trips
 - April 19-21: Cabin Maintenance
 - June 21-23: Cabin Maintenance
 - September 13-15: Cabin Maintenance
 - November 1-3: Cabin Maintenance
 - C. **Local Trails Report - Paul Heymann, Local Trail Supervisor**
 - March 21: FLSP moving gravel. Success filling holes in parking lot.
 - March 30: FLSP & Cape Henry Shores bamboo removal & bundling
 - April 18: FLSP Live Oak & Cypress Swamp Trail led by Kaci
 - May 16: FLSP Trail Maintenance Workday
 - June 20: FLSP Trail Maintenance Workday
 - D. **Safety Report - Bruce Davidson, Safety Committee Chair**

-Studying how to streamline activating/deactivating the Garmin devices and transferring devices to John S.

E. Program Report - Lee Lohman, Program Chair

-Bill Rogers Honorary Life Membership Certificate

-April 10 GMM: Guest Speakers - Paul & Lori Heymann on Trees

-May 8 GMM: Guest Speaker - Dr. Sherri McQueen on The Lambert's Point City Park Campaign

F. Tool Shed Report - Rich Seriani, Tool Boss

-John Barnes volunteered to help reconfigure/build new shelves

-Sharon Salyer volunteered to help inventory/organize the social event items stored in the tool shed

-Met Bruce Julian at the tool shed to turn over fire rakes and hoes for the Chippokes State Park trail building project. Bruce gave me some background on the Tool Boss responsibilities.

-Looking into building a ramp for the large wooden crates.

-Need to inventory the Sherando tools during the April trail maintenance trip.

-Will visit the shed over the next couple weeks to begin cataloging the contents. Dates TBD.

G. Outreach Report - John Barnes, Outreach Committee Chair/Kaci Midgette, Co-Chair

-March 10: Brainstorm Session: Work items pending

-April 20, Earth Day at Mt Trashmore: Registration complete; sign up pending

-May 1, 5th Annual Norfolk Bike Expo: Registered on 4/3/2024

-Potential Events: Boy Scout: Pipsico Scout Reservation, April 27

-Great Outdoor Provision Company, tbd

-REI, tbd

-Fall-O-Ween Festival (NN Fall Festival, tbd

-FLSP, tbd

-Potential Events w/goal of increased diversity. See below under "Discussion"

-36th Annual Hampton Roads Pridefest & Boat Parade, June 22

-38th Grand Illumination Parade, November 23

H. Education Report - Don Williams, Education Committee Chair

-Request for 45-minutes class to Scout troop re: what to pack for 2-night AT backpacking trip.

I. Social Events Report - Sharon Salyer, Social Events Committee Co-Chair

-Spring DITP is canceled due to conflicting club events. Scouted out all previous volunteers for someone willing to co-chair this committee along with me. So far there has been no interest indicated. Some members mentioned that it would be good to recruit a new, younger member interested in planning children's activities for these events. Lelia and I also talked about including the maintenance dinners under this committee's umbrella so Lee can get back to trail maintenance.

J. Volunteer Time Report - Greg Reck, Timekeeper

-Lee sent updated forms out for review. Thanks for comments.

-For 2024, time data has been entered for

> TATC Admin for Jan, Feb, Mar for those using Lelia

> TATC Admin for Lee Lohman

> March 10th Outreach Brainstorming Event

> March 23rd Sherando Cleanup Event

-Need time data entered for Local Trail Maintenance, Tuesday Group (start March 1) Leads and other Activity Leads, etc.

K. Awards Coordinator Report - Jim Newman, Awards Coordinator

-Jim Sexton has updated the total AT hours worked by members to up the end of 2023

-Working on ATC APPA Awards

-Michelle Cobb has agreed to design the logo for each award: AT, Local Trails, Cabin, etc.

L. Hikemaster Report - Kaci Midgette, Hikemaster

-Saturday, March 30: Bill Bunch - Hike on Long Creek to White Hill Lake at FLSP. 14 participants.

-Tuesday-Wednesday: Ellis - High Bridge SP Bike Trip

-Friday-Sunday, May 17-19: Lelia - For AT Hiking & Jazz Lovers at Delaware Water Gap

-Saturday, June 1: Jim Newman - Trail Magic at Tye River

M. Merchandise Report - Kaci Midgette, Lead

-During March 2024 GMM Mike Martin expressed interest in taking on this role

-Gave away 23 "excess" T-shirts to Volunteers at our March 23 Sherando Cleanup Event

N. Newsletter Report - Peg Seriani, Newsletter Editor

-Thanks to everyone that submitted material/articles for Apr/May Newsletter

-The Jun/Jul Newsletter will be sent out on June 1st, so the next deadline for articles/photos will be Friday, May 24th.

O. Webmaster Report - Jim Sexton, Webmaster

P. Facebook Report - Bill Bunch, Facebook Master

-532 subscribers reached in March 2024

-Need more people to post events than me but it's great to have this much activity to post

Q. ATC RPC Report - Ned Kuhns/Jim Sexton, ATC RPC Representative

-Attended Southern Partnership Meeting at Hungry Mother SP on March 9-10

R. Counselors Report - Bill Bunch/Sandy Canepa/Jim Newman

S. Prez Report - Lelia Vann

-Alternative GMM site being considered: Smartmouth Warehouse (too expensive), Resilience Lab (not enough parking), Blue Moon (too small), Bold Mariner (may work). I will schedule a Happy Hiker Hour so attendees can make assessment.

-Weekend Hike & Bike Events (that don't interfere w/maintenance events) If everyone could commit to leading 1 or 2 each year, we could fill in the gaps. Kudos to Bill for leading 3 hiking weekend events this year.

6. Approval Requests:

A. Approved Mike Martin as the Merchandise Chair replacing Kaci Midgette

B. Approved updated 2024 TATC Budget - Andy Grayson

-Approved signing a message to the TATC membership about the Budget changes which includes the approval of the Awards Program and approved the updated 2024 TATC Budget.

C. Approved the April GMM Agenda with the deletion of the "B. Approval of Changes to 2024 TATC Budget" since we voted to send a message to the TATC membership about the budget changes.

Please see Draft4-10-24GMMAgenda" attached.

7. Discussion Items:

A. Discussion w/Garmin re: Deactivating/Activating InReach Devices - Bruce D.

B. Outreach Ideas - John B.

Please read "Outreach Ideas 3-10-2024 Brainstorming.docx" attached.

C. Potential Outreach Events to include Diversity & Inclusion - John B.

-36th Annual Hampton Roads Pridefest & Boat Parade on June 22

-38th Grand Illumination Parade on November 23. Early Bird non-profit fee: \$100.-- Everyone agreed that we should not pursue this.

D. Editing/Rewriting TATC Articles on Website - Don W.

Reported Later:

- April 2024 GMM had 54 people in attendance. The revived TATC Awards Program was unanimously approved by the members present.

Adjournment: President Vann adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.