

SAWTOOTH INTERPRETIVE & HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
MINUTES
6/16/23
REDFISH CENTER

Attendance: President Stewart Wilder; Vice President Terry Clark; Treasurer Liesl Schernthanner; Past President Gary Gadwa; Board Members Ed Cannady, Jenny MacNichol; Becky Obletz, Dave Pinney, Caitlin Straubinger; Board Members Via Zoom Paul Hill, Bernice Hartz; Executive Director Lin Gray via zoom; Business Manager Erica Cole; SNRA Liaison Sarin Lomascolo; Volunteer Recorder Laurii Gadwa; Museum Docent Megan Nelson; Redfish Coordinator Clare Vergobbi; Guests Susan and David Kim, Hannah Fake.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by President Stewart Wilder.

Ed Cannady moved to approve the Consent Agenda and Minutes from the April 20, 2023 board meeting; Gary Gadwa seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

Stewart stated since this was the annual meeting it was time to review board terms. The terms for Bernice Hartz, Stewart Wilder, Amy Jones and Dave Pinney were up.

Liesl Schernthanner moved to reelect the above members for another term. Terry Clark Seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

The following slate of officers were presented: Stewart Wilder for President, Terry Clark for Vice President, Roland Miller for Secretary, and Gary Gadwa for Ex-Officio seat

Jenny MacNichol moved to adopt the slate as presented. Ed Cannady Seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

Stewart thanked all for the reports. He said due to time limitations we won't be meeting the naturalists this year but asked for everyone to be sure to introduce themselves to the naturalists whenever they could.

Gary Gadwa asked Stewart if there was an update on the cell tower. Stewart said no. Will keep advised.

Introductions of the persons present and on Zoom were made.

SNRA Liaison Report: Sarin Lomascolo said she had helped with the Naturalist training. She congratulated Lin on receiving funds for displays. The Deputy Ranger is currently gone. Michael Fuller will start June 26 and Sarin gave his background. She stated the Sawtooth Wildfire Collaborative had one well attended meeting and is planning more in the future. She listed the hours for SNRA Headquarters and the Stanley Ranger Station. She will forward the Forest Service Organizational chart to Lin for dissemination to the Board. The Forest had flown Sharon

Barnes position and the Special Uses position. New positions include a Fish Biologist, Fire Operations, Recreation, and the "Bear Lady". Susan James is back. Matt Phillips is on a detail. Kirk is going on a detail in mid-July. When questioned, she stated most details are mainly promotion related or to build experience. Terry Clark asked if someone from the outside would be replacing Kirk? The answer was yes. She said there are numerous new permanent and seasonal permanent staff. Kathy Wilkins is the new Wildlife Biologist. The Redfish to Stanley trail is open, however there will be no ribbon cutting yet. There will be a final walkthrough. Ed Cannaday stated the need for blocks to keep vehicles from entering the trail. Gary stated the gates were also to be fixed. Terry said they are working on it. The Redfish Phase 3 is moving ahead and as a reminder it includes the Redfish Center parking lot. They have found a contractor from the Wood River Valley who will begin work mid-August. The parking lot and North Shore Campground will be shut down September 11 for the construction. Everyone will be kept informed. Lin Gray said the Visitors Center may not open until late June in the 2024 season because of the work. Sarin also reported they are looking for a new concessionaire, that it was in the pre-solicitation phase. Terry explained how the campground concessionaire process works. He also stated Kirk was aware the new parking lot will not be a fee area and there is a need to figure out how to solve the problem of Dog Beach parking. Bernice mentioned the Redfish Center parking lot is currently the only place where a bus can park and that has been an issue.

The Caribou/Targhee liaison was not present, but Erica reported all four Caribou/Targhee outlets are now open.

Lin gave a few updates. A flagpole has been obtained and just needs to dry out for painting before it is installed at the Museum. Idaho DEQ will work on gas tank removal at Obsidian site. SIHA is selling wood permits, and she is working with the Salmon Challis Forest to be able to provide their permits as well. She has obtained \$10,400 for Naturalists compensation from Sawtooth Society, and is hoping for another \$10,000 from the National Forest Foundation. There is a \$30,000 grant from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law fund for the Forest Service. This will go toward replica artifacts, a mobile classroom for special events, and outdoor signage. There is a 20% match requirement. She is working with the Forest Service for permission to build a brush lodge on the museum grounds. This is a five-year project.

Gary asked how cooperation with the tribe was going. Lin said this is a busy time for the tribe, so the signs may not be available in time for the Salmon Festival. Erica expressed thanks for the great Salmon Festival program speakers.

Executive Directors Report (attached): Lin Gray: she had no significant additions to her report. Stewart thanked her for the good work on the Priorities and Annual Work Plan.

Redfish Coordinators Report, Clare Vergobbi: Training went well, no Covid scares. All are ready to go. The first four days had 587 visitors and over \$4,000 in sales. There were people at all of the programs. The Dailey schedule is the same as last year. They have been impressed with the

naturalists' programming. Gary said he assumed Clare was responsible for bringing the Sawtooth Society volunteer crew to work day and said thanks. It's nice to see the cooperation.

Museum Docent Report, Megan Nelson: Megan thanked all volunteers for covering the first two weekends. It made a difference in sales and visitation. She has been impressed with Ian. He is interested in the Ranching History and wants to update the ranching displays.

Financial Report: (Attached) Liesl Schernthanner; Liesl reported donations are up and grants are doing well. We are where we expect to be at this time of year. The deficit doesn't include some grants, at least \$20,000 and sales haven't started as of this report. Gary asked about the legal and professional fees and the Board expenses. Liesl explained the Board expense is for Zoom, while the legal covers the Center for the Sawtooths and concerns on how to handle Naturalists compensation. Paul Hill asked about the rehab of the clerk's cabin. Liesl said it is not close, as Boise State was to do most of the work but has backed off. The project will have to be reworked, and CeSaw has become the priority. Gary asked about the administrative charge of \$2,400 and the bank charges. Erica said out of nine outlets only three are on Square readers, so the others will continue to have fees. The Stanley Ranger Station is not a rental credit card machine, so that will decrease some fees. Gary asked how *Idaho Gives* went. Caitlin Straubinger reported it brought in \$4,400. Liesl said a lot of those were dues payments rather than donations.

[Gary Gadwa Moved to approve the financial report. Jenny MacNichol seconded the motion. Passed Unanimously.](#)

Membership Update: Caitlin Straubinger: Caitlin reported there are 38 memberships and 2 bricks. Membership and donations are up while bricks are down. The raft trip has sold 150 tickets. Terry asked if his *Idaho Gives* payment was a membership or a donation? Liesl stated anything over \$50 was recorded as a donation.

Outlet Report: Erica Cole: January through May 2023 brought in \$8,150 compared to \$7,600 in 2022. She is very optimistic sales will be greater than last year. Sales at the Merc were less during the winter but increasing now. The location in the Merc is not as good as it was in the past. She made an outlet visit in May. The Square system is up and running at Stanley Museum, Redfish Center and the Stanley Ranger Station. She thanked those who have helped her figure it all out. Money for the purchase of Square for the Caribou/Targhee outlets could come from their funds. She is worried their current credit card machines might become outdated soon. Headquarters doesn't have robust enough WIFI to support Square, and Square can't use the phone landline. There was a discussion of using StarLink, however the equipment is expensive while the monthly fee is the same as others. Terry has an IT contact that upgrades all the Redfish Lodge properties, and he would/could help the Redfish Center get improved service. Terry will make the contact. Clare reported having to shut down public WIFI access while acknowledging it did bring people into the Center. Erica reported the campground hosts will be selling the *SNRA Trail Maps*. She has finalized the postcards and will have them printed for \$.30 and they will sell for \$.75. The *Your True Nature* custom products have also gone into production. She is still working on the *SNRA Pocket Naturalist Guide* for publication.

Oral History Report: Gary Gadwa: Gary reported Laurii has been transcribing several oral histories. He stated there are several needing to be done. Liesl asked about doing Bruce Coburn saying there are several 70-year-olds needing to be done. Stewart said to keep the list going.

Executive Committee Update: Terry Clark reported the Kim's are discussing which one would possibly come on the Board. If they decide to join, they will provide a resume for the board then a vote can be taken. Terry said he may be asking for an increase in the number of board members so some other good people can be approached. Jenny said she will move forward with a contact with Sue Orb on the 20th. Liesl said either way talking to people keeps them interested in SIHA and knowing that SIHA and the Sawtooth Society are different organizations.

Center for the Sawtooths: Stewart reported the donation agreement was signed in March. The committees have been formed and have started. There will be a marketing conference with Dana Plasse, editor of SVP Magazine, to get information out in the July issue about who SIHA is and then something more on CeSaw after. Discussion was held on the need for an artist rendering of the project and the need to set priorities for construction. Stewart listed who was on the Fundraising and Operations committees. Jenny reported a 100% Board Member pledge for the project asking all to fill out the pledge form for tracking. The Finance committee is meeting on the 20th. They are looking for a list of possible donors' ad strategies for next fall. They are working with Debra LaMorte to structure the Fund-Raising campaign. Paul will send out information on the holding non-profit to John Seiller who will review the Articles of Incorporation before they are filed. Terry asked Kirk for a liaison for the CeSaw meeting. Kirk said he will be it for now so the line officer will be the liaison while Kirk is gone.

Lin presented the following figures sales and visitors at the Redfish first 6 days of operations:

Sales	Visitors	Year
\$3,996	587	2023
\$2,230	635	2022
\$2,580	733	2021

The meeting was adjourned at 12:09 pm.