Draft 2/17/2022

Key: Board Action

Individual Commitment

SAWTOOTH INTERPRETIVE & HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors

Zoom

February 17, 2022

**Participants**

Officers: President – Stewart Wilder, Vice-president Terry Clark, Treasurer Liesl

Schernthanner, Secretary Ed Waldapfel, Past President Gary Gadwa

Directors: Becky Obletz, Ed Cannady, Caitlin Straubinger, Roland Miller, Paul

Hill, Jenny MacNichol, Amy Jones, Erica Cole, Ken Hartz, Bernie Hartz

Business Manager: Erica Cole

Executive Director: Lin Gray

Forest Service Liaison: Bobbi Filbert – SNRA Deputy Area Ranger

Kathy Atchley – C/T Liaison

Lead Naturalist: Bryce Johnston

Alumni: Hannah Fake

Meeting called to order at 10:05 a.m. by President Wilder. Roll call of participants conducted.

The motion to accept today’s Consent Agenda (Attachment #1) and 12/9/2022 Board Meeting notes was made by Gary Gadwa and seconded by Terry Clark. Motion passed unanimously.

**UPDATES AND REPORTS**

**President’s Report**

* Stewart Wilder
  + Mentioned by long time SIHA member and Director Emeritus Art Selin passed away
    - Stewart stated that Art significantly contributed to SIHA since its inception in 1972
  + Stewart thanked Erica Cole for stepping up to fill the Business Manager position vacated by Laurii Gawde’s retirement
  + He also expressed his appreciation to Lin for all her efforts and recognized that this is her busy time of the year planning and preparing for the 2022 season
  + President Wilder also thanked the Board and various committees for their efforts during this very busy time
    - He said that the Strategic Planning Committee has done a very good job and that it is important that this work continue to move forward, especially as we start getting involved with potential donors
      * They want to know where we are heading, and the Strategic Plan is vital to this effort

**SNRA Liaison Report**

* Bobbi Filbert – SNRA Deputy Area Ranger
  + Large construction plans and activities
    - Redfish Lake area – bridge over Outlet Creek is scheduled to be completed this spring – May
    - Phase III of the Redfish Lake Project
      * Moving of the road, Redfish Visitor Center parking lot, etc. is out for contracting at this time
    - Great American Outdoor Act funds are tied up at the moment as the Forest Service still does not have an approved budget, only a Continuing Resolution
    - The main entrance road to Redfish Lake by the entry station will be moved away from the creek
    - North Shore Picnic Area and the access road to the Visitor Center will be closed September 12th
      * Road from Fishhook Trail to North Shore Picnic area will also be closed and moved
        + SIHA will still have access to the cabin, but maybe not vehicle access
      * There will be 5 parking spaces designated for visitor center employees
      * Bobbi will share renderings/plans with Lin
    - Gary asked about access closure dates
      * Bobbi – some closures starting in September 2022 and maybe some delays in 2023; some closures again in September 2023
    - There is a Forest Service Enterprise Team working on the planning for the Redfish Lake Project
      * Expect opportunities for public involvement as plans are drafted
        + Terry stated that SIHA and Redfish Lake Lodge need to be involved as shareholders and not part of public involvement events
        + Bobbi said she will make a note of that to consider direct conversations with SIHA and the Lodge
    - Stanley Ranger Station dump station and entrance road
      * Will be redesigned and contract award to reconstruct
        + Dump station will be closed for this upcoming season
        + Work on the dump station is being funded by Idaho Parks and Recreation
        + The road to the Birding Trail will also be closed this season
        + The Ranger Station will be open, once employees come back to the office – may have alternate access during different times during the summer
    - Stanley-Redfish Lake Trail
      * No movement regarding the litigation
      * Contractor defaulted last year
      * Going out now for new bids to complete the work
        + Hope to complete the work by August
        + Paul inquired as to what work is left to do

Bobbi – mainly through the moraine area and close to Redfish Lake

A lot of work remains, expensive work

* + - Alturas Lake and Stanley Lake Roads
      * Scheduled for chip seal this summer
      * One section of the Alturas Lake Road will need to be reconstructed, brush removal to improve site distance
    - Work progressing on Salmon River Electric relocation project with the Sheriff’s Office and Department of Transportation on Highway 21
      * Involves a new shed building and propane tank
    - Stream diversions
      * Nearing the end of the three-year time period for this work
    - Summer employee hiring process has been challenging but SNRA is doing fairly well so far
      * Hiring surge for key positions in fisheries, recreation, fire, NEPA, etc.
      * Housing continues to be a big issue and concern
      * Gary asked about the status of the Law Enforcement Officer position for Stanley
        + Bobbi – position is being advertised and will be based in Stanley – location of housing remains to be an issue
    - Regarding employees returning to offices
      * Will not happen prior to April or May
      * Visitor Center is open
      * Large telework option will be available for some employees
      * Expecting direction from Department of Agriculture and the agency
    - 50th SNRA Anniversary
      * Activities being planned for August 18-22
      * Ed C mentioned that the Andrus Center is planning an event that focusses on the 50th Anniversary – Rocky Barker is heading this event up for the Center
        + Stewart asked Ed C to make sure he shares any further information on the Andrus Center event with the SIHA Board

**Caribou/Targhee National Forest Report**

* Kathy Atchley – Liaison
  + Three offices on the Forest are now open to the pubic
    - Teton Basin office remains closed
    - Not much snow on the Forest
* Looking forward to outlet visit from Lin and Erica

**Finance Report**

* Liesl
  + See Attachment #2
  + Bottom line – sales better than we had planned for this year
    - Thanks to the good work by Lin’s crew
  + Regarding the $728 from the C/T NF at the end of the year
    - Liesl – gap between the membership base and accounting data base
    - Liesl thanked Caitlin, Lin and Erica for their work on the membership data
  + Gary as why Board expenses were up – was this due to the Strategic Planning Seminar that we had?
    - Liesl – yes
    - Why were volunteer supplies so high?
      * Liesl – involved supplies for Covid, cleaning robes, etc.
      * Lin also stated that the polo shirts that the naturalists wear are getting old, and we need a bigger supply of sizes
      * Liesl said that we ask the naturalists to turn their shirts back in at the end of the season – we really should give them a shirt to keep
  + Gary asked about the expense for Museum artifacts
    - Lin – this was for the purchase of the safe
  + Terry offered that with the Ranger Stations reopening soon this should help bring in more revenue from sales
  + Gary mentioned that sales at the Mountain Village in Stanley have been huge
  + Liesl said that map sales continue to grow
  + Gary said that it was really neat how Mountain Village expanded SIHA’s display of sales items
  + Stewart reminded the Board that the $9500 IHC grant must be spent by November
    - Lin said that these funds will be used for the Museum crew this season
* Gary moved and Bernie seconded the motion to accept the Financial Report as presented. Motion passed unanimously.
* Stewart thanked Liesl for the visuals and very nice report – really appreciate Liesl’s effort
  + Liesl said that SIHA will be transitioning to Quick Books – in the process of bringing that online
    - This will enable everyone to have access to this information
    - There may be a slight increase in costs to do this as SIHA may need to pay for an accounting firm to help with this transition

**Obsidian Property Update**

* Stewart
  + Thanks to Lin for all her efforts to date on this project
    - Stewart will take on more of some of the responsibilities here in order to free Lin up to continue doing her work for the upcoming summer season
    - SIHA continues with weekly sessions with Amy Jones and Lin
    - Obsidian Committee is meeting weekly
    - Things are moving forward
    - This is a once in a lifetime opportunity thanks to the Jones Family
    - Critical points
      * Donation Agreement
        + The attorneys and the Jones Family are reviewing this document
        + We hope to get this finalized before the next Board meeting
      * Environmental piece
        + Thanks to the Jones Family for agreeing to remove the underground fuel tanks
    - Stewart expressed his appreciation again for the expertise contributed by Carter MacNichol and Doug Obletz, especially for putting the “process” plan together
    - It is hoped that the underground tanks will be removed by April
    - Stewart stated his appreciation to Amy, Al and Ezra for all of their work and support
    - Terry Clark was also thanked for the work he is doing with the SNRA on this project with regards to the Easement, etc.
    - We are continuing to work through a number of issues as this is a complex project
    - Response from some potential donors to date has been positive
      * Jenny described her contact with the Murdock Foundation and that it had been very positive and that they were excited about what SIHA is taking on with the Obsidian Property
      * She also mentioned that based some feedback she has received we may need to make some changes to our four-page document
    - We need to keep moving forward as there is still a lot of work to do
    - Liesl said that SIHA has contributed $10,000 towards this project and that we may want to contribute more
      * Stewart reminded the Board that we have already received $50,000 worth of in-kind services
    - Paul stated that this is really a complicated project, accomplishments are slow but well worth the effort
    - Lin said that the Board needs to be prepared to have another meeting as soon as we have the Donation Agreement in hand

**Membership Update**

* Caitlin
  + See Attachment #3
    - 113 members $26,640.00
  + 81 donors $15,580.50
    - Brick Sales $3,100.00
  + Total $43,320.50
  + Ed W thanked Caitlin for the printed report
    - Liesl also thanked Caitlin for running the report
  + Terry pointed out that we have a lot of membership lapses and need to figure out how to get them back
    - Gary suggested a “one on one” contact would be a good move to achieve this
  + Stewart also thanked Caitlin for her work on this

**Outlets Report**

* Erica
  + Expressed her appreciation to Laurii for all her years of dedicated work and especially for her help in transitioning with Erica
    - Lin also thanked Laurii for her guidance and help over the years
  + Erica is busy transitioning and learning from Laurii
  + There will be personal visits in April to all the sales outlets – Erica and Lin
  + Stocking products at the Mountain Village on a weekly basis
    - Sales are doing well at the Merc
  + Evaluating books online for potential sale products, going through catalogues for new products
  + If anyone has any ideas for sales products, please contact Erica
  + Liesl – expressed her hopes for enjoying retirement to Laurii – well deserved
  + Stewart thanked Erica for stepping up and filling in behind Laurii

**Strategic Plan Committee Update**

* Lin
* See Attachment #4
  + Lin described this document in detail
    - High level, covers a lot of bases
    - Any feedback on this document, please contact Lin
      * We need to make sure we are all on the “same page” with this document, especially with the 1-, 3- and 5-year goals
* Stewart thanked Lin for her great work on this document
* Jenny pointed out that the document needs to be consistent with the use of the terms “Resource” or “Capacity” development
  + Jenny also glad to see that the Strategic Plan carries through to the Annual Work Plan – great job
* Lin requested the Board to review the document and get back to her within the next week or two – make sure to look at the 1,3- and 5-year goals
* Based on feedback that she has received, Jenny asked that all statements made in the document be “positive”
* Amy mentioned that the document overlooks improvements made in staffing
* Lin said that moving forward we may not need the Strategic Plan Committee
  + Liesl feels the Committee needs to stay intact, but maybe not meet on a frequent, but “as needed” basis
* Terry said that we need to take this burden off Lin now that the document is almost completed
* Amy – “I really like this document, really great work done here”

**Executive Committee Update**

* Stewart
  + We have accomplished cleaning up our Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws thanks to the expertise and work of Harvey Dale and Jon Bauer
    - SIHA used an e-vote to adopt the Articles of Incorporation, and these have now been filed with the office of the Idaho Secretary of State
    - We now need to approve the update bylaws
      * These are all now very clean
      * Paul – this brings everything into compliance with the current rules, laws, etc.
        + The only major change is that now we get full protections as afforded by Idaho laws
        + It is a good practice that we look at these two documents at least once every five years
    - Gary expressed his appreciation to all who have worked on getting these two documents updated
  + Moved by Jenny and seconded by Gary to approve and accept the updated Bylaws. Motion passed unanimously.
* **Board Vacancy**
  + Terry Clark
    - There is one vacancy on the Board – due to Erica Cole moving off the Board and into the Business Manager position
    - Next potential Board candidate is Dave Pinney
    - Committee needs to meet to update the list of potential Board candidates
    - Becky, Gary and Liesl are involved in this committee
    - Committee will meet Tuesday, March 8 at 4:00 pm

**Maintenance Update**

* Gary Gadwa
  + Nothing new to report
  + See Lin’s Executive Director report for an update on the Museum roofing project
    - Only enough funds to get the Museum building reroofed
  + Dewinterizing facilities is a way off yet

**Preservation Committee Update**

* **Oral History**
  + Caitlin said that the oral history interview with Bill Platt is going forward and hopes to complete this within the next couple of weeks
  + Lin mentioned that she is working with a new website person and hopes to get the platform established so that some of the oral history interviews can be made available on our website
    - Stewart said that we have $4600 available that could be used for this work – Lin will follow up
  + Gary stated that Laurii is going to try to do some of the transcribing of interviews that have already been completed

**Updates**

* **Forum Lecture Series**
  + Lin
    - Committee has been meeting on a monthly basis
    - ½ of all the slots are now filled
      * Still working on confirming with everyone
    - August 19th SNRA 50th program will be longer than normal
    - Lodging for guest speakers continues to be an issue
      * Lin has some motel reservations made already, but not enough rooms are available
        + Asking if there are any Board members who would like to host guest speakers

Jenny volunteered to host the August 5th speaker

Still need hosts for July 15 and August 19

Becky said they could possibly host for August 19, but will get back to Lin

* + - Ed C volunteered to do a program on mountain climbing, if needed
    - Liesl commented that now the programs will be starting at a new time – 6:00pm – it will be interesting to see if this makes a difference in attendance

**Hiring**

* Lin
  + 4 naturalist positions have been filled to date
    - Offering one more tomorrow and then one the week after
    - May have a full crew within the next week or two
  + SIHA has been invited to apply for a $15,000 grant from the National Forest Foundation Fund
    - If we are successful, Lin would like to increase naturalist’s pay to $1,000

**Executive Director’s Report**

* Lin
  + Museum grounds use form update
    - See Attachment #5
      * Potential use for wedding in June
      * Terry pointed out that form needs to refer to Special Use Permit and not Conditional Use Permit
      * Liesl said that this is not a lot of money, but it is a good start, also good for getting more people interested in the Museum
      * Becky asked about where the litter that is picked up by the permittee goes
        + Permittee needs to work with Clear Creek for porta potties and trash dumpsters
        + Amy stated that this needs to be cleared and clarified in the document
        + Lin said this will be covered on Page 1 under extra costs – dumpsters, toilets, etc.
      * Liesl suggested raising the amount of the bond in case problems arise from the use
      * Amy said that $300 for an event in the Sawtooth Valley is super cheap – raise the cleanup deposit
      * Erica says double the prices
      * Lin stated that use of the Pioneer Park is $500 for 48 hours
      * Ed C is against raising the fees, we need to keep this affordable
      * Cailin said that for the use of the baseball diamond the fee is $1,000/day
        + SIHA needs to get the contracts for the porta potties, dumpsters from the permittee at least one month in advance
      * Laurii stated that the City of Stanley will not rent the city park for two weekends/month and that the City is also increasing their fees
      * Amy – SIHA needs to determine how often we want to rent the Museum grounds
      * Lin said we will ask for a $1,000 damage deposit
        + Laurii – get a check for the amount of the deposit
      * Liesl – supports Erica’s recommendation to double the fees
      * Paul - $500 rental fee is reasonable
      * Lin – doubling current fee would be $900 for 150 people
      * Gary – we need to stay reasonable
      * Rolland - $1,000 is very reasonable
      * Liesl – keep the ½ day rate the same but double the fee for a two-day event
      * Lin asked if the Board was required or needed to vote on this
        + Liesl – complete revising the form and send out to the Board for an e-vote
        + Stewart – send it out to the Board, but we don’t need to have the Board vote on it
      * Gary – how will this work with FLS dates?
        + Lin – SIHA events will have precedence
* **Clerk’s Cabin**
  + Stewart
    - Architect Any Ersted has asked his interns to dust off this project proposal and plans
      * Need to get an overview of where we are with this project
      * If possible, go forward
        + In light of the potential Obsidian Project, do we need the Clerk’s Cabin for housing, or can we get by with just a shell of a building and use it for storage?
      * Feeling is that it would be prudent to back and review this project
* **2022 Work Priorities**
  + Lin
    - See Attachment #6
      * These priorities tie to our Strategic Plan
      * Terry asked if the 2022 Work Priorities works for Lin
* **Executive Director’s Report**
  + See Attachment #7
  + Lin asked that all Board members review the Contacts/Committee document (See Attachment #8) and provide her with any needed edits so that she can update and finalize
  + Lin mentioned that Bobbi Filbert informed her that the Forest Supervisor’s Office in Jerome can no longer be a sales outlet for SIHA due to language in their building lease
    - Terry said that that building was a GSA lease and many other Forest Service offices are the same – SIHA needs to dig into this as it is very disconcerting if we were to lose the ability to have sales outlets in Forest Service offices
      * He also mentioned that Kirk Flanigan has said that the SNRA headquarters will be moving into a new building in the next two years

**NEW BUSINESS**

* **Sawtooth Fund**
  + Terry Clark
    - A group of people have been getting together to work on the issue of funding for the Sawtooth National Recreation Area – especially funding for field going staff
    - Group started by Wendy Jaquet, former Idaho State Legislator
      * Based on concern for the high and increasing amount of use occurring on the SNRA and lack of funding for field going people
      * Others involved in this group include Dani Southard, Kathryn Grohusky, Steve Botti, Paul Ries, Jim Stark, Terry Clark
      * Group is working with and for the Forest Service on their needs for a foundation fund and with Congress and the Agency to find an internal way to fund the Forest Service
        + need a responsible fiscal agent to handle funds coming in – like the National Forest Foundation

the Sawtooth Society would like to fill this role

SIHA could also do this

SIHA needs to be involved rather than not be involved

* + - * Ed C – there needs to be an endowment where the Forest Service could work off of funds generated each year (like interest or other proceeds)
      * Stewart – there is a need to make certain there are clear goals for this new organization
        + This is a good story to go back to Congress with
      * Terry asked if the SIHA should consider being involved in this
        + SIHA would need a portion of the funds generated to administer the program – wouldn’t be able to do it without funds
      * Gary reminded the Board that SIHA has been a “money pass through” conduit for years for the Forest Service
        + The Forest Service should really be getting adequate funding through Congress
      * Paul agrees with Gary
        + Competition with private funds, non-profits would result
        + Questions whether SIHA should be involved in this with all the other things we now have going on
      * Ed C also agrees with Gary, however it just isn’t happening
        + Having an endowment fund to operate from will be much more reliable and the roller coaster budget system and process the Forest Service has to operate under today – it would provide a stable funding base
      * Jenny – this appears to be much more aligned with the Sawtooth Society than with SIHA – Society is a much more logical choice
      * Bernie asked if this was being pushed because of SIHA’s Obsidian Project
        + Terry – no
      * Rolland – would need a huge endowment to work
        + Paul agrees
      * Liesl – don’t feel that SIHA has the capacity to take this on
        + Is a motion one way or the other needed here?

Terry – don’t need any action at this point

SIHA has a lot of interest in this, would like to be engaged, but we do not have the capacity to take this on

* + - * Ed C – too early to make any decisions
  + Lin reminded the Board that we do have a meeting on April 21st.

**Meeting adjourned by Vice-president Terry Clark at 12:31 pm**

Respectively submitted,

Ed Waldapfel

Secretary

Attachments (7)