

SAWTOOTH INTERPRETIVE & HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
AUGUST 17, 2023  
Redfish Center

Present: President Stewart Wilder; Vice President Terry Clark; Treasurer Liesl Schernthanner; Directors Becky Obletz, Susan Kim, Ed Cannady, David Pinney; Directors via zoom Bernice Hartz, Gary Gadwa, Caitlin Straubinger; Amy Jones; Executive Director Lin Gray; Business Manager Erica Cole; Redfish Program Coordinator Claire; Museum Docent Megan Nelson; SNRA Liaison Sarin Lomascolo; SNRA Deputy Area Ranger Michael Fuller; Sawtooth NF acting Forest Supervisor Shawn Robnett; Hannah Fake; Laurii Gadwa - SIHA Board Recorder; Absent: Directors Jenny MacNichol, Paul Hill, and Roland Miller, Secretary

The meeting was called to order by President Stewart Wilder at 10:05am at the Redfish Center.

An agenda amendment was made to add removal of Ken Carlsen from financial accounts

Ed Cannady moved to approve the consent agenda. Gary Gadwa Seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

President's Report: Stewart reported meeting with Mike Simpson to bring him up to speed on the CeSaw project. Simpson is pleased with the progress and Stewart believes he will support us in the future.

SNRA Deputy Ranger Michael Fuller and Forest Engineer Shawn Robnett introduced themselves. Shawn is here representing Jake Strohmeyer, Forest Supervisor.

Sarin Lomascolo, SNRA Liaison, gave a thank you to all the naturalists for doing a great job. She reported the Interpretive Display agreement has been updated and approved. It will now go to the Supervisors office and then to the grant department where it will go through as a regular agreement.

Ed Cannady asked the Forest Service personnel if they were aware of what SIHA does for spawning salmon? He gave background information of the Chinook and Sockeye Salmon issues stating they are globally significant. He encouraged them to be informed and active because these endangered species are on their district.

Stewart inquired about any hiring. Michael Fuller explained there were several promotions in the works whether new hires or in-house promotions. They are looking for a person for the front desk at HQ, however several persons have to finish their internships before they can be hired.

Ed asked how many were new positions and how many were due to vacancies. Michael stated most were vacancies. Shawn explained how they had to work hiring in bundles. The Forest doesn't have direct hiring ability except for the hiring of veterans. All others must go through the national hiring staff. Housing is a big issue. All in all, it is very frustrating.

Gary Gadwa asked for an update on the Phase 3 project. Shawn stated it has begun. After Labor Day pavement from the new to the old will be removed. The project is to be completed by next fall.

Executive Director's Report (attached): Lin Gray reported the webcam has been pulled down to check the function of the camera or to determine if it is just the cable. She asked for permission to purchase a new webcam before the fall shut down of the Center if it is deemed necessary.

Bernice Hartz moved for money to be set aside to find the status of the webcam and purchase as needed. Gary Gadwa seconded the motion. Passed Unanimously.

Lin reported the raft trip ticket sales are dragging out and has set the drawing for Labor Day. Hopefully ticket sales will be complete by then.

Lin is calling a financial committee meeting to outline the 2024 budget including the Obsidian plan. The first draft will be presented in October with the final in December.

Bernice asked when the money pledged by individuals will be needed. Lin will discuss later in the meeting.

Lin reiterated that the crew this year has done a great job.

Finance Report (attached): Liesl Schernthanner corrected two minor errors in her report. She stated there is a bit of a lag on the numbers and the report is on a cash basis.

Gary asked if on the pie chart the donations' included the Jones donation for the Redfish Center. Liesl stated the donations included the donations from membership, general donations, raft trip etc. Amy Jones stated the Browning donations won't be announced until September.

Terry Clark moved to approve the financial report. Susan Kim seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

Liesl reported Ken Carlsen is still on some of the bank accounts and records and need to be removed.

Susan Kim moved to remove Ken Carlsen from any SIHA accounts and documents. Dave Pinney seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

Summer Programs Coordinator Report (attached); Clare stated the crew is awesome and it is a bummer we've lost a few already. There has been higher visitation in July and August. Sales are up some. Portal numbers are way up compared with 2022 numbers.

There are lower Redfish Center visitation but believes it is due to parking issues. They have had irate people and people who have moved signs and people who have received tickets concerning parking. Terry said Clare's point on parking needs to be taken seriously by the Forest Service for management. It is getting worse every year. People are staying all day so others can't get to the Visitors Center. Clare said the Forest Service is trying to get out there and have issued tickets. Stewart said it is getting worse and hopes Phase 3 will help with the issue. Bernice said the dog beach parking and the fact there is nowhere else for buses to park has always been a problem. There are also reports of people being directed to the Visitor Center parking lot from other areas. She feels signage is necessary.

Museum Docent Report (attached): Megan reported: they are now selling firewood permits for the Sawtooth and Salmon/Challis national forests. Not as many as they expected but plan on some signage to get the word out. They also sell IDPR ATV stickers and out of state boat and invasive species permits.

She will send out an updated graph of sales and visitor numbers. Visitor numbers are consistent and donations and sales numbers have increased.

Membership Report: Caitlin reported \$9000 in memberships for 46 people, \$840 for 5 bricks and \$17,000 for the Raft Trip ticket sales.

Outlet Report (attached): Erica Cole noted she had no updates from her report and asked if anyone had questions.

Preservation Committee/Oral History report: Becky Obletz met with Mary Grandjean, granddaughter of Emile Grandjean. Becky is going to try to do an interview with her.

Susan Kim stated she would like to be on the Preservation Committee. She was welcomed by all.

Executive Committee Report: Terry Clark has worked through the list of potential board members. Susan Kim is on the Board now. Terry has five other people on the short list with one vacancy available. He approached Hannah Fake and she looked into her availability as she works for the Forest Service. Word from above is that it was not recommended. Others on the list are Jack Hand, retired CEO of Power Engineers; Eric Bow, who bought the Woolley property; Michelle Praggastis; Jeff Ballas, Hatchery Maintenance; Brian & Kathrine Bean, Conservation Ranchers. Terry suggested connecting with Eric Bow and asked if anyone had any contact with Michelle Praggastis. Amy Jones said, Michelle or her daughter are in Wood River Valley and would be a good fit if we want Wood River people. Terry said we are short on Wood River and Ed said he would like Eric Bow. Gary suggested Patsy Nickum also and Terry added her to the list. Terry suggested Amy approach Michelle and then after we know what they say, move on down the list.

Liesl made the point that we need to talk to people about SIHA to build up the interest in SIHA so when we approach people, they have a basic understanding of who and what we are about.

CeSaw Report: Stewart turned it over to Terry who reported they sent out a copy of operational recommendations to proceed for people to comment on (attached). They would like the Boards blessing to move forward. It seems like the construction timeline needs to be finalized so the fundraising committee knows what they are aiming for.

Liesl: Would like a plan in place to show the end goal. Such as replacing the motel unit for new units. That way the bar is set for progress.

Terry stated in the updated timeline the immediate focus is turning the old café into ED housing. The next step is renovating downstairs for crew housing. He noted Jenny, who is absent, is comfortable with the changes stating housing. Housing isn't an easy sell to donors but it is necessary.

Stewart is pleased with the plan.

Ed commented the café is not to be kept for housing forever. The plan is to expand it as an education center. Housing is the short-term need. He asked about an artist rendering of the concept.

Stewart said he is working on it with Andy Erstad; Erstad Architects.

Lin said the Board needs to be on board with the plan.

Stewart read Jenny's update from the CeSaw Fundraising Committee (see attached).

Amy questioned the \$80,000 from Judy Jones, and believes it is a 2 to 1 match. Lin and Stewart advised will get this confirmed as the Board has been working with the understanding that it is a 1 to 1 match.

Stewart said moving forward the Board will be given the talking points to use.

Lin said upon closing she will be sending out a reminder of pledges. She will set up a portal for payment but with the understanding checks are preferred. Using credit cards for payment adds transaction fees for SIHA.

Lin reported they are waiting on the report from DEQ and the appraisal. Amy said the DEQ report should be coming any day.

Liesl said she has the ability to facilitate a site visit if anyone is interested.

Lin will put out a list of fundraising options in an administrative portal for anyone to use.

Ed said he noticed a pile of dirt at the site and said there is a sign in Stanley stating "Fill Dirt Wanted". Amy will look into it.

Terry said people are talking about the Obsidian project and have contacted the SNRA and other nonprofits with questions and comments, like the need for parking across the road. He asked everyone to be sure people understand this is a SIHA project not any other organization.

Stewart states all communications need to come from SIHA to the Forest Service, not from other sources.

Stewart said there will be a meeting of officers after the meeting about the establishment of the Center for the Sawtooths, an incorporated Idaho nonprofit as set up by Paul Hill. This will entail election of officers, approval of Bylaws, an issue of stock held by SIHA, etc. Articles of Incorporation have been filed with the Idaho Secretary of State office. We are awaiting 501c3 status from the IRS.

Roundtable:

Ed said we need to do everything over the long term to keep Lin in her current position.

Stewart thanked all the naturalists and everyone for doing a good job.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:35am

Next meeting: October 19 at 10am.