

SAWTOOTH INTERPRETIVE AND HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
MEETING MINUTES
12/14/23

Attendance: President Stewart Wilder, Vice President Terry Clark, Treasurer Liesl Schernthanner, Directors: Gary Gadwa, Ed Cannady, Bernice Hartz (via Zoom), Susan Kim (via Zoom), Amelia Jones (via Zoom), Jenny MacNichol (via Zoom), Caitlin Straubinger (via Zoom), Executive Director Lin Gray, Business Manager Erica Cole, Summer Programs Coordinator Claire Vergobbi (via Zoom), SNRA Liaison Sarin Lomascolo

Absent: Roland Miller, Paul Hill, Dave Pinney

The meeting was called to order by Stewart Wilder at 10:04 am at the Stanley Community Library Conference room.

Ed Cannaday moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Gary Gadwa seconded the motion. Passed Unanimously.

Presidents Report: Stewart shared a naturalist posted a picture of a bat on a blog post and we were notified of copyright infringement. Lin removed the blog immediately and reminded the crew of copyright issues. Stewart filed a complaint with the Idaho Attorney General office due to the predatory nature of the emails. Originally the company threatening action was asking for a \$3100 settlement payment. The demands escalated to a group called Copycat Legal demanding a \$30,000 settlement payment. Stewart and Paul contacted Advocates for the West, and Laird Lucas agreed to represent SIHA, responding to Copycat Legal. Since SIHA is a nonprofit, who in no way financially benefited from the use of the image for 2 months, and precedents set by past fair use cases we believe the predatory company has no basis for their claims. Laird will inform us of any further correspondence.

Lin explained she pulled most of the blogs from the website when she received the initial email - in case there were other images that had slipped through the cracks over the last 5 years. Claire is reviewing some of the blogs for use of creative commons content and proper citation and will be reposting them slowly.

Stewart reported the City of Stanley is asking for a letter of support for their grant to improve Pioneer Park. He and Lin will draft it. The expectation is that SIHA is involved with any interpretation happening with the project.

SNRA Liaison Report: Sarin reported on hiring. They have filled the front desks at Headquarters and the Stanley Ranger Station. Allison Kennedy for Private Lands. Mike McGee has finished his detail and Kirk Flanagan is back. Tom Winters has accepted the Special Use Permits position. Beth Bratley is retiring. Matt Phillips has accepted a position with an enterprise team and will remain in the area but is no longer working with the SNRA. They are currently hiring for

seasonal and permanent seasonal positions. Ed asked who is replacing Tom Winters and Sarin shared it was too soon for that but they have flown the position.

Sarin mentioned the wolverine has been listed as Threatened on the endangered species list and with a population in the SNRA this may change management plans.

Amilia asked about repairs to the Boardwalk. Lin said it is on the list. The Forest Service was going to try to get Great American Outdoors Act funds but had to drop it due to the price tag. It will take multiple entities working with the Forest Service. The next step is for the FS to put it on the list for NEPA review but because it is anadromous fish habitat this could be a more involved process. There is not an immediate short term fix. Ed Waldafelt did some work in 2022 but one bridge approach collapsed in winter 2023 so it is closed. The section to the upstream bridge was opened by Michael Fuller for kokanee viewing. Terry Clark said if SIHA came up with a plan, he feels the Forest Service would be in favor. Sarin said she will continue to work on it. Lin said if it is reworked it will not be the same trail and will be made ADA accessible. Ed stated an engineering report has to be the starting point.

C/T Report: Kathy Atchley was not at the meeting. Lin reported for her that Palisades has gone to cash only to alleviate the credit card fees. Terry reported the Cariboo/Targhee does not want to lose us but understand our concerns.

Executive Directors Report: (see Report) Lin went to Fort Hall for the final okay for the interpretive signage and has one more meeting for permission to order the signs. She hoped to have them installed by summer. Gary asked if there was a possibility of having a naturalist from the Shoshone/Bannock tribe. Lin said generally they are nontraditional students and would need more than a shared room and higher compensation. It may be possible in the future.

Lin said a three-night stay for Beckwith Lodge is going to be the 2024 raffle. She is leaning towards not doing online sales this year because the tickets will be less and the time involved with sending receipts doesn't make it worth it. Tickets will be \$20 each with no limit on the number of tickets sold. Susan Kim suggested looking into online free raffle platforms.

Lin will send out a draft of 2024 meeting dates, which didn't make it in the packet, and asked everyone to review. She shared that she made some minor updates on the 2023 work plan but will not spend the time to create a 2024 work plan until we know if Obsidian is a go.

Caitlin suggested moving the August meeting from August 15 to August 22 so that Board Members would be able to attend the Salmon Festival. All seemed to be in favor.

Financial Report: (see Report) Liesl said in the budget proposal to focus on the Budget figures. The total YTD is correct but some of the sub account numbers were not updated. Overall for 2023, the net revenue looks great due to the reimbursement for the roof work. There are a few adjustments needed to the budget.

Terry Clark moved to approve the financial report and the budget. Ed Cannaday seconded the motion.

Liesl stated several categories are hard to predict. Amelia said she wants to look at bringing in more donations. Erica stated the sales numbers used to include service items and those are now expensed out so the sales numbers are more accurate.

Gary stated the need to look into the Public Employee Retirement System of Idaho (PERSI) for the Executive Director. Need to look at this for long term retention. Lin said the hurdle is revenue. It's great if the board wants to better support staff, but it also means that Lin would be the one to figure out where to find the funding. The stress of looking for additional funds doesn't feel worth the benefit at this time. Stewart stated he will help look into it. Liesl stated one of the primary goals the board has identified is staff retention so any improvements made will help reach this goal.

Jenny MacNichol moved to research retirement and benefit options and not add to the current budget. Gary Gadwa seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

The budget motion was voted on and it passed unanimously.

Outlet Manager Report: (see Report) Erica had no updates from her report and asked for questions. Gary asked for an explanation of the silver and gold checking plans. Erica stated the gold plan allows for more transactions (as long as the balance remains at \$10,000 or more) and SIHA currently doesn't hit that cap. The silver plan provides a decreased number of transactions before SIHA has to pay per transaction, and we currently go over the cap. Gary asked if SIHA should be looking at CD's or other interest-bearing options since interest rates are high. Erica stated most of the funds are restricted so must be accessible. Lin said some could be put into higher interest plans but the need is to keep some liquid. They are looking into switching out of US Bank.

Terry was impressed with the SNRA Outlets, but he questioned why retail outlets (like the Merc) had declining sales. Erica said it is product placement. Laurii suggested giving Mountain Village a display plan to encourage redesign. Erica said Dan pulled product from the gas station last year but has recently purchased maps, so she is hopeful items might go back in. She will have a discussion with him. Made in Idaho has decreased the products they were getting from us and they will likely close their agreement with SIHA before the summer. Lin stated that the numbers Terry is impressed by are partially due to having custom items, and Erica has made a big difference.

Terry also noted gallery sales and said good job to the crew for managing the gallery. Lin stated, while the summer crew assists with sales, she does the majority of gallery work. Lin mentioned it would be great to have a board member take over the gallery once again. Before Kay retired and Bernie had to step away, it was managed by board members. Liesl stated having a Board

Member take it on would help. Erica stated Lin is dedicated to the gallery and hangs everything. Someone needs to take that off her plate as it is extra work she doesn't need.

Membership Report: Caitlin reported 104 members, 161 donations, 6 bricks. The 2023 newsletter brought in 55 contributions for \$7000 so far, which is close to last year. The totals are in Erica's and Liesl's reports. Lin stated more will trickle in. Caitlin said last year there were 58 donations and 91 members at this time.

Preservation Committee update: Susan stated the amount of work done in the last 20 years is formidable. Now the oral histories need to be edited and made available. She has a program at the Stanley Library on the 21st for the first edited oral history, that of Bethine Church. She will try to set up more through April then stop for the summer. Stewart gave a shout out to Gary and others for gathering the histories. All were excited about the work and stated the need to continue interviewing.

Executive Committee Update: Terry said there is still a board vacancy and he will check with Amelia, who had to leave the meeting early. She was going to reach out to two contacts in the Wood River.

Center for the Sawtooths: Stewart has a meeting with the land donors about the setting up of a separate/secondary board. This complicated things. Harvey Dale suggested forming an LLC, which is solely owned by SIHA. The land donors want more information from their attorney. Stewart thinks we need to pull the secondary board and remove the separate 501c3, as it is a simpler way to go. John Seillor is in favor and will work with the land owner's attorney.

Any donations for CeSaw are to go to SIHA, into a separate account. SIHA will make all CeSaw decisions. Big donors need assurance of financial security. Stewart is trying to get it all done before the end of the year. If completed in 2024, SIHA may need to go back to the donors who have made 2023 pledges. Jenny says not to put closure dates for future donation pledges.

Stewart said we are now waiting for the attorneys to connect. We did get the final determination from DEQ, just need the final appraisal but that won't hold up the closing.

Gary Gadwa moved to authorize the Executive Committee to go forward and finalized the closing. Ed Cannaday seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Stewart stated the CC&R's would be attached to the title and filed with the county. He said, on the 2024 budget, for CeSaw insurance is a high projection. Lin shared this was intentional because a conversation with a Farm Bureau agent indicated it could be this high, so they didn't want any surprises.

Roundtable Topics

Terry Clark reported on the Sawtooth Coalition. SIHA has agreed to become a founding member association. IRU, ICL and the Adrus Center have agreed to be part as well. Now SIHA has to pick a person as representative. Both Ed and Terry agreed to be the representative currently. All were supportive of having the coalition going forward.

Ed stated SIHA needs to raise a lot of money. He would like to pair an FLS event with Board involvement to get the Wood River Valley to know about SIHA.

Jeny stated the money currently pledged is going to see CeSaw through the planning process of a master plan. We need a plan before sharing the project with possible high ticket item donors. Generally raising awareness of SIHA is good, but wait for a plan before soliciting large donations. The fundraising and operations committees are poised for closure, so the planning process can begin.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55