

SAWTOOTH INTERPRETIVE & HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

MINUTES - 10/19/23

Attendance: President Stewart Wilder (via video); Vice President Terry Clark; Treasurer Liesl Schernthanner; Directors: Gary Gadwa; Bernice Hartz; Dave Pinney; Ed Cannady; Directors via zoom: Becky Obletz; Susan Kim; Paul Hill; Caitlin Straubinger, Amelia Jones. Executive Director Lin Gray; Business Manager Erica Cole; SNRA Liaison Sarin Lomascolo; Redfish Programs Coordinator Clare Vergobbi; Hannah Fake

The meeting was called to order at 10:07am at the Stanley Library. There were no amendments to the agenda.

Terry Clark moved to approve the consent agenda. Gary Gadwa seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

President's Report: Stewart thanked the summer staff and committees.

SNRA Liaison Report: Sarin stated it was a good season. She reported Deputy Ranger Michael Fuller saw the boardwalk and saw the value in keeping access to Fishhook Creek open. The agreements are going well. The 2016 participating agreement has been closed out after a final annual report was submitted. The interpretive display agreement is active. She passed around the staffing chart with the understanding that although the names may change and a new chart may change some of the positions. She reported on several personnel changes. Permanent seasonal positions have been open for application. The Redfish Phase 3 is moving forward and she showed pictures of the current progress. She gave numbers for visitation at the Stanley Ranger Station and Headquarters. (See attached chart)

Hannah reported there is one human-caused fire, which the Forest Service is actively watching at this time. The #210 Road prescribed burning is complete and was a great training opportunity.

Paul asked when Kirk would be returning. Sarin said December 13th. Terry stated there are so many people on-details it is hard to tell who was in charge and asked Sarin to pass that concern on.

Executive Director Report: Lin reported the \$32670 from the roof ratification had been deposited. She thanked Clare for helping manage the clean up efforts. Clare and Hali helped with a custom Sage School program on fire ecology. Gary asked if the Stanley School was receiving the same programs as the Sage School. Lin stated the Sage School program was a one-off and that the Stanley School has not asked for any programs this year, but they do on occasion and SIHA provides it. She is working on the newsletter and will be setting up a folding party around the second week of November. FLS is over. There were not a lot of attendees this year. She is planning an FLS planning meeting in December or January. Ed Cannady, Gary Gadwa, Becky Obletz and Stewart Wilder agreed to be on the FLS committee. Because Redfish Visitors Center will open late in June 2024, FLS may be impacted and sales will be impacted. There was a discussion of possibly having an FLS at Headquarters. Bernice noted it is hard to get people to drive to the HQ and that could be an issue. Ed agreed. Paul asked if the partnership with the Ketchum Library was not good. Lin stated SIHA was not the "Sponsor" headliner even though they were there. Lin reported Paul Reese and Jim Stark of the new Sawtooth Coalition want to have a presentation with the board. Terry explained the purpose of the presentation is to ask SIHA to be part of their organization. The presentation would take 1 to 1 ½ hours. Paul asked who has joined and who has been asked to join. Terry reported the Sawtooth Society was asked first and they will be asking other organizations. Lin will work with the board to find a date for this request.

Financial Report, Liesl Schernthanner: (See Attached) Liesl reported the \$25,000 from the Browning Foundation for 2024 operations is not in the report yet. The roof reimbursement is not reflected in these

numbers either. Line 5000 is earned revenue and is gross receipts from sales at miscellaneous places. They are reported separately to keep from inflating sales numbers.

Gary Gadwa moved to approve the financial report. Bernice Hartz seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

Liesl presented the draft 2024 budget (Attached). Gary asked how the increases to the wages are figured. Liesl said any returning staff wages are increased slightly. The starting paid salaried employees need to go up 6% to start being competitive. Gary remarked the grounds maintenance needs to reflect work to the irrigation system and asked the status of the office and tool shed roofs. Lin said they are wanting to stagger the work to be able to get grants. The roofs are being monitored for needs. Paul asked a question concerning wages. Liesl stated the hourly wages are lower than what should be paid. Paul asked about the legal fees. Liesl explained the jump in fees was largely due to CeSaw. Lin stated \$13,000 is for the Shoshone/Bannock display professional services which is included in that account. Paul asked about the increase in supply costs. Liesl said most is for display supplies covered by grant funds. Lin said the Tribe is not contributing with funds and SIHA is not asking them to. Tribal personnel are providing time and expertise as an in kind contribution to the project. Gary mentioned the McNichol family gave funds for FLS and asked if SIHA should be requesting it again. Liesl said perhaps, when the fund is depleted they will make the request. Liesl will submit the budget for final approval at the December board meeting.

Redfish Report, Clare Vergobbi: (Attached) Clare reported the numbers are down slightly due to closing in September. However, there were good sales. Visitor numbers were on par with 2022. There was a good crew this year. Clare thanked the Board for their support. In September, they did more portals and had real high numbers, particularly at Iron Creek, where there were hundreds of people on Saturday mornings. Not opening until late June will impact next year's sales and numbers. It had been hard to find applicants, partially due to the amount paid. Gary asked if any were returning. Clare reported there are a few who showed interest. They will be around some this winter, helping with social media and other things until the end of the year. Gary thanked Clare for coming on and staying to help Lin. Terry suggested operating the Stanley Ranger Station on weekends when they normally closed in order to increase sales next June. Liesl stated the quality of the blogs was good this year. Clare gave a brief museum update based on Megan's final report (Attached). Numbers were up from the last few years. Megan deserves thanks for her years of service. The Salmon Festival was a great success this year. Erica reported the income from the Salmon Festival was \$2195. Terry said SIHA should think about doing something for Megan. Stewart thanked Clare and said he looks forward to having them back in 2024.

Membership Update, Caitlin Straubinger: Caitlin reported there are 50 members, 146 donors and 6 bricks for a total of \$35,445. The raft raffle brought in \$18,375.

Outlet Report, Erica Cole: (see attached) Erica reported talking to Kathy Atchley about increases in credit card fees. She suggested going to cash only in Palisades as their sales revenue does not cover the monthly fees. Overall, Caribou/Targhee is down in sales. There is no consistency in hours at Island Park because the front desk position is vacant. Kathy and her assistant have to cover both offices. If Island Park was open year-round it might change things. Gary asked if the fees come out of the Caribou/Targhee funds. Erica is doing that and funds to Caribou/Targhee is very little. A serious discussion needs to be had. Liesl said having solid numbers has helped in understanding the issue. Gary asked if personnel vacancies are the issue or is it the lack of buyers. Erica states she is not sure but it appears to be both. Terry said leadership has changed and there needs to be an executive-to-executive meeting. Terry is willing to have that talk.

Liesl Scherthanner moved to set up a meeting with the Caribou/Targhee forest.

Erica stated her time is not included in the financial figures. Liesl stated SIHA is providing a service and is not looking to supplement our entire operation but we also can't be floating a whole program that impacts staff time and doesn't cover costs.

Ed Cannady seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

Stewart asked Erica, Liesl, Terry and Lin to set up the meeting.

Lin said moving forward Erica will be doing all sales reports rather than having the crew leads do them in the future.

Erica thanks everyone for editing the new pocket naturalist. They hope to finalize it soon.

Preservation Committee update: Susan Kim reported the committee is working to make oral histories more accessible. There are over 100 different oral histories saved. They are trying to get them edited and have the edited versions transcribed with links to them on the website, and possibly at the library where videos can be shown at a meet and greet with a SIHA introduction. There are 2 videos available. She will send out the links to them. She said the State archives are also interested. Anyone interested in the editing process please let her know. The originals will be kept as well as the edited versions.

Executive Committee Update, Terry Clark: Terry reported on board vacancies. He said Amy will talk to Michelle and Lexi Praggastis when she returns.

Center for the Sawtooths: Stewart reported the fundraising committee is working to connect with Judy Jones regarding her challenge match. The environmental exam is complete. Amy shared they are waiting for the DEQ report. Then there is clean up (if required) and then the final appraisal. Stewart says the deed of gift has been drafted and, when the donation agreement has been completed, just needs to be updated and signed. Liesl wants to wait until it is going forward, after the reports, to collect the pledges. Paul said there is no needed communication with the Forest Service until the final reports. There is a separate 501c3 for CeSaw as an affiliate to protect SIHA. They have received nonprofit status from the IRS. He wants SIHA to take the lead on fundraising.

Paul shared information about the Fiscal Agent agreement. In this role SIHA takes over fundraising and funds are kept in a separate fund from which CeSaw would authorize use of the funds. He has submitted to the board a fiscal agent agreement. He has also discussed a second option, with an attorney, to set up a single party LLC with the corporate liability shield that SHIA needs. Ed asked what the decision making process for CeSaw would be. Paul said CeSaw has its own board for liability reasons. It consists of Stewart, Terry, Liesl and Paul. However, SIHA drives the decision making process not CeSaw.

Paul Hill moved to authorize Stewart Wilder as president of the Sawtooth Interpretive & Historical Association (SIHA) to sign the Fiscal Agent agreement with the Center for the Sawtooths (CeSaw) with any modifications legal counsel recommends. Liesl Scherthanner seconded the motion. Passed unanimously with Amy Jones abstaining.

Stewart asked for any open topics.

Dave Pinny stated he is running for Stanley City Council.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:52am