

SIHA Board Meeting – August 22, 2024

PRESENT: President Stewart Wilder, Vice President Terry Clark, Secretary Roland Miller (via Zoom), Treasurer Liesl Schernthanner, Directors in person: Bernice Hartz, Caitlin Straubinger, Dave Pinner, Becky Obletz, via zoom: Ed Cannady, Paul Hill, Jenny MacNicol. Executive Director Lin Gray, Business Manager Erica Cole, Redfish Coordinator Alicia Lindbom, Forest Service Liaison Sarin Lomascolo

President Stewart Wilder called the meeting to order at 10:05 am.

Stewart asked if there were additions or questions for the agenda or if there were any additions, corrections to the meeting minutes that went out?

Additions or corrections were submitted. Jenny MacNicol made a motion to approve the agenda and the minutes. It was seconded by Becky Obletz. The motion was approved unanimously.

PRESIDENTS REPORT: Stewart Wilder: (See Report) Stewart noted that it has been a difficult summer regarding the two major fires affecting the Stanley/Sawtooth region. He commended the SIHA staff, volunteers, and board members for adapting to the changing conditions, area closures, and affected schedules as the summer evolved. Stewart noted a brighter spot in the season was the closing on the Obsidian/CeSaw property. He stated, and that there was much interest and excitement in the community related to the renewal of the site and its future use and more information would be coming up later in the meeting.

SNRA LIASON'S REPORT: Sarin Lomascolo gave the SNRA Liaison's Report and thanked everyone for their hard work through difficult times this summer. She noted the positive attitudes and smiling faces she encountered with the SIHA staff and their flexibility in a tough situation. Sarin gave an update on the Wapiti fire, the evacuation preparations that have been in place, how to access the state's Code Red notification system for evacuation notification, and other fire information resources available online. Sarin noted that the Wapiti fire was a top priority nationally, which means better access to resources.

Sarin mentioned that the Forest Service is reviewing applications for campground concessionaires, and it is possible there will be a new concessionaire next summer. She followed by discussing several of the projects the FS is working on in and around the Redfish Complex, including the North Shore Picnic Area and signage.

Sarin noted that Bryce Parker is in a detailed position as the wilderness entrance program coordinator.

Alicia noted that (with the new Visitor Center parking lot, road reroute, and related tree clearing) visitors are saying they have been coming to Redfish for decades and had no idea that there was a visitor center there. People even have a better view from the lake. She noted it would be

good to have a sign on the beach to direct traffic to the VC. They have been putting a sandwich board out and roving on the beach to inform visitors of the center and its activities. Other options for signage and information to highlight the center and its activities were discussed by the group.

C/T LIASON'S REPORT: Kathy Atchley, C/T Liaison, was not in attendance, and a brief discussion was held regarding the status of outlet sales locations.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Lin thanked Dave, Melissa, and Susan for covering shifts at the visitor center and museum and noted there were still some shifts available for anyone who wants to help. She stated that museum visitation had been steady until the fires and smoke intervened. It was too early to tell what the effect would be on overall visitation and income. She is working on a design for a new information kiosk at the visitor center that is planned for next year and funded by the WinterFest community grant. Lin is trying to find appropriate dates in September and possibly also October for workdays.

Lin mentioned the work Wes Willis did with his skid steer at Obsidian and noted how supportive he has been with the whole CeSaw project. She also states that SIHA is asking people to put the word out for the GoFundMe page, which is trying to raise \$15,000 to make up for the summer's revenue loss from the effects of the fire, and we've only got about \$1,250 or something as of now. Lin also said the SIHA car is dead and wondered if anyone had any ability to look into the problem.

Lin mentioned how great the SIHA summer staff has been, with evacuations and changing schedules and locations during the fires. They got along well with their Forest Service house mates, and everyone felt included in the group. During the evacuation, one volunteer couple decided to leave—in part because they were living in their RV and needed to be ready to evacuate on a moment's notice. Lin said that, until the fires, visitation numbers were close to last year. Smokey the Bear's birthday celebration was a huge success. And the next big event is Salmon Fest. Lin asked everyone to promote the GoFundMe and the Raffle to help make up for lost revenue due to the fires.

Bernie Hartz thanked Lin and all the SIHA staff for their fine efforts during this most difficult summer of fires, closures, and evacuations.

FINANCE REPORT: Liesl presented the Finance Report. She asked Erica Cole to jump in as necessary, as the Outlet report impacted the Finance report. She said obviously, this year's finances will be affected by the fire closures and visitation impacts. Liesl expects a larger deficit and acknowledges that we do have some funds in reserve that should help us carry through the rest of this year.

OUTLETS UPDATE: Erica Cole stated that the Stanley Ranger Station and Headquarters staff have helped offset the shortfall with their efforts in sales and inventory we usually don't have in the winter will continue to off-set the shortfall. The current shortfall is \$8,000 from last year, so we should be okay. Since Redfish was closed part of the summer, the books and other inventory

are not lost. Erica said we can shift some inventory to the Mountain Village and save the rest for next year. This will reduce the amount we need to order next season. Erica has increased prices to match what other competitors are charging and so there is more of a profit.

It was suggested we have the maps open so visitors can see what they are. When this has occurred, then sales have gone up. The possibility of putting an online store up on the SIHA website was discussed.

Lin mentioned that we need to prepare for the Browning Foundation Grant not to come through next year. SIHA uses this to pay the summer crew.

Stewart asked for a motion to approve the Finance Report. Bernie Hartz moved to approve the report. Dave Pinney seconded. The motion was approved with Jenny MacNichol abstaining.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE: Caitlin Straubinger presented the Membership Update. She said we are at 40 members for \$8,000, 90 donations for \$21,585, and eight bricks sold. Membership and donations are about \$31,000 compared with about \$25,000 at this time last year.

PRESERVATION COMMITTEE UPDATE: Susan Kim presented an update on Oral Histories. This year five oral history presentations were given and were all well attended. Seven more oral histories have been recorded and will be rolled out at the Stanley Library before they are uploaded to the SIHA website and YouTube Channel. Progress continues to be made in recording more oral histories.

Susan wants to work with Lin and the SIHA web designer to make sure the videos are easy to find and navigate. She would also like them to be available at the museum on either DVD or other digital medium, but we may need a new BluRay/DVD player.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE: Stewart presented the Executive Committee Update. Stewart had a good call with Jim Everton and Jack Cafferty from the College of Idaho. They are interested in helping us with setting up an internship program for our naturalists. Something possibly similar to the clinic's pre-med internship program. SIHA will need to make sure their structure, availability, and curriculum (outdoor recreation education vs environmental education) match up with our needs. SIHA couldn't have all the summer interns leaving at the beginning of August to return to college classes. Caitlin mentioned she had College of Idaho interns this summer and last fall, and she would be happy to discuss how thing went. She seconded the need to clarify education and schedules for this to work for SIHA.

Stewart led a discussion of possible fundraising opportunities for CeSaw. He thanked Dave, Joe, and Michael Powell. The shed, sort of old well house, an ADA bathroom and a shower complex have been demolished. Several dumpsters of debris have been removed. This demolition will allow SIHA to reutilize that square footage for more productive purposes. SIHSA needs to move on with master planning by identifying someone to assist in that process. Once plans have been created, we can begin putting them in front of possible donors to say this is what our goal is and how it would be very tangible. The timing and approach for fundraising was discussed at length.

Terry said he had Pat Russell come out to inventory noxious and invasive weeds.

The board discussed working with a professional fundraiser in the future. It was suggested that we have fundraising committee meetings on a more frequent basis—possibly every two or four weeks.

Bernie Hartz thanked everyone who helped set up and attend Ken Hartz's celebration of life at the Ranger Station.

The next meeting is at 10 am on October 17, 2024.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 am.