Black Forest Trails Association Annual Members Meeting
October 9, 2014

Board Members Attending
Larry Fariss  Andy Meng  Barb Remy
Cheryl Pixley  Nancy Reinhardt  Judi Tobias
Steve Eckmann

Board Members Unable to Attend
Dave Jones

Others in Attendance
Larry Tobias  Judy von Ahlefeldt  Terry Pixley
Diane Hoover  Susan Davies  Sean Rowland

The meeting was held at R&R Café and commenced at 6:30PM.

Meeting Minutes and Treasurer’s Report
• Steve presented minutes from the July 10, 2014 meeting; motion by Barb to approve without change, seconded by Andy, approved by voice vote.
• Andy presented the Treasurer’s report; no concerns from Board.

Discussion on 1A – led by Susan Davies
• BFTA is placing signs provided by TOSC. We will also do grassroots education using materials provided by Susan.

Presentation on County Forest Plan – by Judy von Ahlefeldt
• Concern: Plan doesn’t account for rare plants in Pineries Open Space (conservation easement); Judy is advocating (1) three seasonal assessments of rare plant presence and health next year (May, July, September), and (2) monitoring the logging operation. EPC owns the whole 1000+ acres, all of which is managed by the Palmer Land Trust.
• Judi and Judy recommend local organizations (such as BFTA) hold “public” meetings to build a consensus to take to the County. Judi suggests asking Keith Worley (Arborist, overall lead for the study) to come to our November meeting to discuss this topic.
  ACTION: Larry to invite Keith to speak on this topic at our November BoD meeting.
• Judy will recommend to EPC that, assuming 1A is approved, money allocated to Pineries Open Space be spent on getting the west-side regional trail built and opened (including hazard tree removal in the area of the trail), and leaving the more sensitive areas alone with further assessment.

Old Business
• PPACG Non-Motorized Transportation Plan – Barb Remy
  o No change in status.
• Friends Groups – Judi Tobias
  o FRRP Friends group helped with “Zombie Run” in FRRP.
  o HRRP – no action.
  o BFRP Friends group has not come together yet, but the Cathedral Pines contingent is doing good work on trails in the northern part of the park.
• BFRP Cell Tower – Larry Fariss
  o Placement decision has not been made yet; cannot put at BF Parks utility site due to poor
signal strength.
  o Barb raised concerns about setting precedent for private uses on public land. Reconsider at next meeting?

• Log School Kickoff Donation – Larry Fariss
  o Donation made as approved by Board via email vote; issue closed.

• BF Festival – Andy Meng
  o Not successful from either a fund-raising or membership drive perspective. Why? Things to consider: have big maps to look at and/or small maps to hand out; run a video; sell old hats and T-shirts at a discount and get a fresher look?

• Memorials – Larry Fariss
  o Juel Kjeldsen, Ike Mosgrove, and Hank Hoover; Larry met with Tim and Elaine from EPC Parks; three kinds of memorials are possible:
    ▪ name parking lot, trailhead, or other facility – hard to get approved; there are not a lot of facilities worthy of being named as memorials.
    ▪ name a trail – relatively inexpensive, but hard to get approved.
    ▪ bench – most expensive ($1200 each?), easiest to get approved.
  o Judi suggested getting a trail named for Ike, and specifically the BF Section 16 trail, but it is already named the “Partnership Trail” and there would be significant hurdles to getting it named for Ike, so we will not pursue that.
  o Judi suggested we ask for donations for memorials, at least for Hank, and possibly for Ike once we decide what to do. Decision to seek donations for memorials is tabled until we determine our exact share of costs.
  o BoD decision for Hank: bench in FRRP; possibly split cost with County.
    ACTION: Larry to survey site with Diane Hoover and talk with EPC Parks about cost sharing.
  o BoD decision for Juel and Ike: prefer trail names, but details TBD after we get Hank’s memorial in work.

• Jones Park – Barb Remy
  o CS Utilities is still the landowner; no resolution of who will be the new owner (EPC or Federal Government); there is potential risk either way, but as a Board we are aligned with TOSC against EPC acquiring Jones Park.

New Business

• Trail Signs – Andy Meng
  o Andy contacted Spencer Swann at Colorado Canyon Signs, who recommended Dibond 6½” signs. Also available are “large” signs that include “For non-motorized use only”.
  o After discussion of our needs (for example, we need more large signs since the fire, to alert rogue motorcyclists that they are about to go out of bounds), Andy moved that we purchase 10 of each size; Judi seconded; approved unanimously.
    ACTION: Andy to determine whether there is a setup fee; and initiate purchase of signs.

• Issue 1A – Larry Fariss
  o Briefly covered above.
  o Susan provided 1A information that she would like us to email blast to our membership and post on our website; we should do that the day ballots are mailed.
  o Barb moved that BFTA take a position formally supporting 1A; seconded by Andy; approved unanimously.
    ACTION: Larry will write an endorsement on behalf of BFTA, for Gazette and other channels as he deems most effective.
• New Website – Andy Meng
  o Andy is working on it.

• BFTA Elections – Larry Fariss
  o Five officers have one-year terms, so all officer positions are open.
  o The three current Directors at large (Nancy, Judi, and Dave) all were elected last year, so they are not up for reelection this year.
  o Process: email blast ASAP that ballot form is on website (regular mail ballots for those without email), due back by 7 November.
  o Diane Hoover agreed to be on ballot for a Director at Large position.
  o All current officers will be on the ballot for their current positions.
  o **ACTION:** Andy to create ballot form on the BFTA website, send email soliciting votes, and mail ballots to members for whom we don’t have valid email addresses.
  o Judi suggested Carolyn Brown.
    **ACTION:** Larry will ask Carolyn if we may put her on the ballot for a Director at Large position.

**Additional Business**

• Forest Plan – Larry Fariss
  o Clearly the review period was insufficient and not all interested parties were consulted (BFTA, for example), but what is value of privately initiated “public” meetings if Plan is already completed and accepted? What can we do now?
  o Palmer Land Trust should take the lead on addressing inadequacies in Plan.
  o Should BFTA write a letter to EPC Board expressing concern with Plan, and advocating Judy’s recommendation for assessments in sensitive areas of Pineries conservation easement?
  o If the completed study is an “Overview” study, then do we wait for input on the “Detailed” study?
  o BoD decision: We will take no action before our next meeting; we will all try to become more educated about Judy’s analysis (for example, by reading her BF News article on the topic).

• BFTA Goals 2015 – Larry Fariss
  o One goal for 2015 is to develop new maps, handouts, and other materials for use at the BF Festival.

• Dedicated tax for Parks
  o Barb: EPC Parks should have a dedicated mil-levy fund like the PPLD; what can we do to make it happen? Larry Tobias noted that a similar initiative was tried a couple of years ago, defeated at least partly because Mayor Bach was against it.
  o Larry: TOSC is probably the right lead organization.
  o No action at this time.

• Sean Rowland – looking for Eagle Scout project (Troop 149, Falcon); would like to “do a trail”; what does that mean? Examples: build or repair a section of trail?
  o Cheryl: suggests BFRP needs trail help; Jeremy Symes at EPC is coordinating that; erosion control, etc.
  o Larry: McDermott & Nigel Thompson trail is closed due to downed trees after BF fire; worthy of an Eagle Scout project. Board agrees to sponsor that project if it is determined to be feasible after site survey.
    **ACTION:** Larry to conduct site survey with Sean.

• Next meeting is November 13 at BFCC.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:26PM