

May 11, 2022

Black Forest Trails Association

At Black Forest Community Center

Present: Rich Mock, Andy Meng, John Wallace, Larry Fariss, Cheryl Pixley, Nancy Reinhardt,

Also present: Gary Sherwood, a resident of Black Forest, Marlene Brown of Friends of Fox Run Park

Not present: Gordon Limb

The meeting started at 630 pm.

Intro Gary Sherwood

Minutes from March 9, 2022 – Cheryl mentioned we should have the name of the \$5000 donor. Andy will look it up. With that change to be made, a motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes.

Treasurers report/Membership –

Checking - \$15,830.86

Savings - \$1,309.00

12 month certificate - \$6,549.29

12 month certificate - \$1,542.73

Arroya Lane Property - \$10,001.37

Total \$35,233.25

Cheryl pointed out a few hundred was spent already out of the Arroya fund. Cheryl said over \$300 was for title insurance and \$5 for taxes has been spent. Andy said he took it out of the checking account to pay the title insurance, etc but its only an accounting issue which he will make.

The bad news is we have 21 less members and we are not sure not sure why. Andy sent out two reminders. John mentioned he had not received a reminder. Andy said usually there would be a flurry of renewals after a reminder. We did pick up a lifetime member.

Facebook was discussed and that renewal information has been posted. We don't want to make Facebook for "only members" but leave it open. Andy said there are over 1,100 followers on Facebook. Discussion followed that a monthly invitation should be added to the BFTA Facebook page. It was also discussed to send out a survey to those who didn't renew. Andy has all the stats about who has and has not renewed. Rich suggested it'd be good to make it easy to respond. We will have a big push at black forest festival.

Andy sent out reminders. Discussion about Facebook and maybe put an invitation on Facebook periodically. Larry said 85-100 people have been members in the past.

Website contacts -Hal King – parks lands agreement. Rich referred him to the county planners based on Cheryl's advice. It's a measure of how people perceive BFTA and is our website working.

Arroya land transfer – Cheryl said nothing is new because man who had been working on was very involved with the master plan but now that's published, hopefully he can work on other projects, like ours. Rich explained the history of it for the benefit of the guests.

Section 16 – Gordon not present. We would do like a statement of work. Rich tried to connect Gordon with county people and haven't been able to get together. Gordon would meet with the new north county supervisor person. What do we want to do? Eliminate short cuts, improve the base of the trail in some spots.

TMI – trail mapping initiative which Andy has been working on. Gary has done some of the trails at BFRPK on an Ebike. Gary has done it using a different app than Andy's but they could get together and maybe we could use some of what he's got. Andy said we need this done for Fox Run. Gary said his wife has walked those trails. He and Andy will discuss. Marlene said the pipeline is not going through the park now.

Super friends – nothing new per John. Rich said he got an invite from TOSC on how to leverage social media. John and Marlene said the super friends group discussions have largely been concerning city issues and not county. She has been to some of their meetings. John would like to talk to her about how to get a friends group.

Rich said there's a master plan draft review May 19 meeting. John offered to go to this meeting as a rep for BFTA. Terry Stokka had sent out a news release. Everyone should look at it and let board know.

Black Forest Festival August 12-13. We get a free legacy both. Manning: Andy, Larry, and Rich will set up Friday night and work Saturday early shift 7-11. Late Cheryl, John and Nancy for shift 11-3 – Rich will bring water. Nancy to bring the vests to be worn at the booth – Andy has all the stuff (this will be his last festival) popup tent, a big map, a couple boxes of shirts and hats which need to be in dry storage. We need a new storage place. Maybe Bills Tool Rental possibly has some self-storage – Andy agreed to find out about this.

Andy asked about the trailer where the tools we donated that county stores at Fox Run (on the condition that we could use it). John said it was recently at Black Forest Regional Park, where they were planting trees. John wanted to know how to find out about things happening (which RMFI was involved with.) Larry said the county does work as they need to. John wanted to know who the recognized person is the trails component person for Black Forest Regional Park. He is recognized only for the playground on the south end. She suggested to John that he speak to Ross Williams. Marlene said Ben, the new supervisor invited them to come work but when they got 75 volunteers, they didn't need any more. The county has told John there is someone who is the trails person, but they have never said who. Larry doubted there is one. John would like to pull all the mesh tree sleeves where the trees died because it is basically litter. He said there's a lot of rogue trails that appeared in the last year due to covid and increased use.

Great American Clean up – Rich asked how many bags of trash there were for each site> 20 bags for Sec 16, Black Forest Regional - John 10 bags and around the pavilion (confetti in the grass), Rich - 8 bags for Palmer Divide (he found a syringe). Marlene said they went down to Baptist Rd trail head to work because there was no trash in Fox Run Park. Nancy and friend, Christine picked up dog poop at sec 16.

Donations - Rich said the \$5000 donation was from Joseph Krzizike– we have a lot of money in the bank. Rich talked to Todd Marts and the cost is \$2000 for a bench at Pineries. The board approved \$2,000 transfer to El Paso county for this park bench. Rich talked about road base for trails at Fox run. Marlene explained how they had used it as a trail base at fox run and how they had moved it with wheel barrels. Larry complimented the Fox Run friends group as the best one. Andy suggested we don't commit any money to sec 16 until we know what the county will do. Trail beginning at Pineries gets muddy. We could say it's a definite project. For Fox Run, Marlene has paperwork about how much it would cost to put road base type trail in. She would like to talk with Ben, the new north parks guy. John talked about the trail substance used in Black Forest Regional Park. Rich wanted a motion. Larry made a motion to buy the dirt product for Fox Run. Andy seconded. Once Marlene gets an approval Black Forest Trails will buy what is needed and get it delivered. Marlene said the amount would be 30 tons. Larry suggested a limit of \$1500 or less. Discussion re sec 16 and problems re widening. Cheryl wondered if Todd Marts is the one who will approve the park bench. the question was asked as to what we get for our \$2000.

Rich talked about the booth at Meadow Grass. He proposed going in with Fox Run Friends (Sacred Trees) and paying \$67. It was seconded. Larry said he would go Saturday, Nancy said she would go Sunday. It was seconded. Cheryl said no but it passed.

Black Forest Marketplace which takes place every Saturday except Festival weekend. We've put brochures there in the past. Larry pointed out it's a goodwill gesture and good for community support. It is a good way to get our name out there. John said he didn't know about BFTA until he looked online, so this is a good idea. Rich proposed give them \$100 to get music and put our applications out and on their website. We gave them hand sanitizer but last year we gave them \$100. Discussion. Cheryl pointed out we will need a fair amount of money to connect Meadowglenn to Red Tail Ranch. Question about who is doing this trail. Regarding that, Larry said we have right of way, but it's owned by property owners. He pointed out we said we'd grade it out and we committed to maintenance, but that would be one swipe with a mower. Cheryl pointed out we have a lot of easements that we have gotten so we need to keep money which we may need to hire someone to work on Larry pointed out the fire destroyed some of the trails. John said he thinks a great many people now in Black Forest have not lived here that long.

Newsletter - Rich's President's Corner will be about how "BFTA needs you" and donations dispersal. John agreed to put something together about El Paso County Master Plan. Cheryl brought up Renewals, festival and ask for volunteers to work our booth. Articles by July 1 to Andy and have it put out a week later. Larry will write article about requesting members to work the booth. John said there should be something about expanding access for public trails from private trails via easements. Newsletter has to be out before July 12. Annual meeting and elections and discussions about when the meetings took place. El paso county master plan. Can we put the newsletter on Facebook? Cheryl wondered if there are more people who throw away their newsletter than there are people who ignore their emails.

Cheryl said it came to \$1.35 per newsletter, including printing, stamps, seals, etc. Rich thinks electronic newsletter is the way to go.

It was brought up that in the past the Membership meetings were later and should be in the last week of September, so after the festival. Last year it was done in July. Rich said we had John Anderson talk about the trees and last year it was Terry Stokka. Do we want to keep the July 12 meeting at the brewery with Susan Davies speaking? Larry thinks we should just have the July meeting at the community club and not Susan Davies. Rich will go about rescheduling. Rich looked at September schedule. It will be September 27 at the Brewery for the membership meeting with Susan Davies. John asked how we have gotten new members. We have put membership applications and maps in boxes at the various parks but one of our boxes was destroyed.

Nancy mentioned Cheryl and she went to TOSC Equestrian Advisory meeting where there had been discussion re ebikes and the county possibly limiting which kinds, and other issues equestrians have had. Nancy asked about possibly a cell phone tower in the Pineries and Ross Williams said no because it is part of a conservation trust.

Cheryl mentioned that the Friends of Black Forest got new members by only charging \$1 and they got 2500 new members. We might want to consider going that route. Larry pointed out we have not been trying to make money. There is strength in numbers. Cheryl pointed out the lifetime members only pay once, and we are not getting income from them for our expenses.

Meeting adjourned at 8:27.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Reinhardt,

Secretary