

July 12, 2022

Black Forest Trails Association

General Membership Meeting

Black Forest Brewery

Guest Speakers: Welcome Greg Stachon, El Paso county landscape architect, and TOSC Susan Davies

Minutes approved from May 11, 2022 meeting.

Our Mission vision and Goals - we are trail advocacy organization.

- **Connect Pineries to Section 16.** We want to continue to encourage & help the county to make a trail.

-**Due to widening of the trails at Section 16 we want to provide some trail definition to help eliminate it.** Mike Teger, who is a lifetime member and avid runner is interested in working on the definition of the Section 16 trail. Brett Idol, who is a firefighter with Fish and Wildlife is interested and knows how to build trails and firebreaks

-We want to map our trails which is our **Trail Mapping Initiative**. Brett Idol's partner, Abra Zovel who also works for Fish and Wildlife has some IT and cartographer skills. Rich will connect her with Andy for social media and our Trail Mapping initiative.

-**We had wanted a Pineries shelter** but is now a bench, because of the conservation easement. Black Forest Trails donated \$2,000 for this bench to the county.

- **Establish and support friends group.** BFTA is the friends group for section 16

Membership-We have 92 members currently.

Treasurer Report-We have a healthy bank account with \$33,000+ - (the Arroya Rd trail section which we want to give to the county and the \$10,000 we were given for it.) Cheryl said it is in the county's hands for them to accept the property.

Section 16 parking was discussed. Greg Stachon said they were entertaining expanding it and have been talking to State Land Board.

Black Forest Festival - beer fest Friday night. Volunteers are welcome to work in our booth – all day Saturday. New members, renewals.

2022-23 officer slate

President - Rich Mock

Vice President Administration-Cheryl Pixley

Vice President Government – Larry Fariss

Treasurer – John Wallace will assume this role, but Andy will stay involved as a tool.

Secretary - Nancy stepping down. -Judy Von Ahlefeldt says she will do it.

We would like to recognize Gordon Limb for all the trail work he has done.

At large members Jack Yonce, Gary Sherwood and Nancy Reinhardt.

Judy von Ahlefeldt – knows and talked about the history of equestrian trails. Accolades to Nancy Reinhardt for being secretary several times.

July 13 there will be an El Paso County listening session regarding Section 16 since there will a lack of quorum. Judy talked about the Section16 partnership beginnings which included Erv Perelstein, Judy Mason and Ruth Ann Steele and herself.

Rich talked about existing Black Forest Trails Association signs as to where are they. Discussion followed about signs in Woodlake. Jo Harwig, a Woodlake resident, had talked to Rich about a trail and a fence where it was thought the trail would be blocked. Rich talked to the homeowner and the adjacent homeowner, and it was a non-issue. Jo thanked Rich for his trail work and talking to the neighbors.

Black Forest Trails donated \$1500 to the Fox Run Park Friends Group for road base for them to work on their trails.

This portion of meeting has ended. The next meeting will be **Wednesday Sept 14** at Black Forest Community Center at 6:30.

Greg Stachon from El Paso County Parks

He has been working on Homestead Park master plan which didn't have one. He gave the history of the 380-acre parcel sold to county parks. It has gravel parking lot and he thinks it might be time to pave part of it. There was an equestrian group that built the additional trails to the north. Ph is kind of high in the pond which is stocked with catfish. The playground is showing its age. There's an active use field. They don't get a ton of reservations for that field, and he would like to improve that.

Master plan has been out for a month and he brought comment cards regarding single track trails - time to recognize them. On the southwest side there are trails that might need to be changed as one is a steep drainage crossing.

John asked about usage. Greg said they don't have any data for that park.

Susan Davies -Trails and Open Space Coalition

TOSC been around 35 years. She said there has never been a need for friends groups more than now. There are 25 friends groups.

Accomplishments: Kane Ranch, Santa Fe open space and new Santa Fe trail.

Not so subtle changes have come to Black Forest. Developers used to have to have larger plot size, but now it is down to ¼ acre. Its very important to advocate for these larger plots.

She asked TOPs (Trail and Open Space) why they can't buy those 90 acres of Section 16 and she will advocate for that. Why does El Paso County not have a TOPS sales tax? She said if there was a .005 tax

that it could fund this Section 16 purchase and for the new nature center. That would be approximately \$7 cost per year per family. And there would be a lot of tourist money.

S16 – people have expressed their use of this trail. Their survey showed that 73.7% of responders were in favor of purchasing it. 22.7% were in favor of renewing the lease at the higher rate, and 3.6% said to let the property go back to the State Land Board. She suggested Black Forest Trails Association organize a \$10,000 fund match to help the county.

Karen Buck – asked what the price on this property is. They don't have a price. Judy said the whole property assessed value is 4.5 million.

Susan stressed that we don't want to lose slash and mulch site. There also must be students using the trail.

Discussion about what and who is using the rest of the property. Judy talked about stewardship trust.

El paso county wants 10-year lease. State land board is bending over backward. Prevailing attitude is keep it, because once its gone its gone.

Rich thanked all for their participation. Meeting closed at 7:23pm.

Submitted by

Nancy Reinhardt

Secretary