



July 18, 2023 , PMTA Board meeting minutes.....

Started at 6:30 with group eating Country's BBQ sandwiches first....

In attendance was Malon Wickham, Tom Flournoy, Jim Hall, Sam Burke, Ronnie Heard, Mark Hughes, Bill Vang, Ben Bryan along with FDR Head Ranger Mark Rissinger and Naturalist Danielle Yeager. Members Craig Myers and Eric were there too.

**Malon-** Welcome and Finance report. \$3675.00 in Synovus checking with a pending income/payment from FDR for maps of \$1750.00 and Jim noted payment not showing for 2- \$30 display maps.. As discussed was we previously we voted to move \$10K to money market account. Main investment account setting at \$ \_110.610.67 . We spent several thousand on the clean up (chipper mainly) of Carl's Cove tornado/downburst damage.

#### **New business:**

Reported that Jerry Brown, could not attend but a membership report to be forward to us.

**Tom Flournoy-** Tom mainly ( with input from Malon and Jim) told about meeting with DNR folks on July 12<sup>th</sup>. Tom reported that the meeting to discuss possible "controlled burn units". Tom told of past burns and situations we worked through back in 2010 and then the "test burn" in 2021 on NE corner of park and this year in April near the old OTP camp and Small Group Camps. This resulted in DNR folks agreeing to report on results of these "test burns" and to work with Tom for a letter of understanding of their future plans to include our input before any further burning. Mainly to work toward keeping any burns off our trails and campsite areas. DNR rep to get with Tom by September with draft plan.

Tom and others had suggestions for new board members and to get more youth involvement with PMTA board and activities. We discussed making plans for set bi-monthly workdays again to help keep a schedule and hopefully gain new members. Craigs friend Eric mentioned interested in being on the board and taking on a trail maintaining section.

**Trail maintaining plans:** Jim discussed the few current trail maintainers and noted of encouraging them.

**Told of recent work** on No Name Parking Lot and access trail to PMT and Mountain Creek Trail by Ronnie, Mark and Jim on June 2<sup>nd</sup> and Mark Rissinger agreed to bring a small excavator to the area to dig some water run off areas along with more gravel when it gets cooler!

#### **We discussed some things that need to be done on the trail (in cooler times hopefully soon):**

**Number one project:** Uphill from Slippery Rock Falls to Bumble Bee Ridge needs **major** trail erosion control ..

Water bars, cedar logs on trail leading edge to maintain width and blocking cutting switchback.

-Blow and drag Carl's Cove and cut popping up roots again.

- We need to cut down the dead Beech tree at Csonka Falls area., before it falls on bridge..

- Jim told about "chipper" work on Beaver Pond Trail and the access road toward Old Sawmill.

Need for touch up on Beaver Pond to clear a few limbs and vines soon.

-Biggie project with be to check out and think about work along Mile 13 to Hines Gap Road. Need to organize work day for this in cooler times (again not now). Also spraying with approved chemical there and Beaver Pond Trail.

Jim urging all to make a list of signs that are rotting and need replacing

Jim told about new 2023 display maps for Mile 23 and Dowdell's. Knob. Mile 23 had to have new Lexan.

Also put a 24" foam board copy of Carl's Cove map in park office PMTA room. Bill Vang and I took a copy to Joyce Carlson (and gave her the old Odie Overlook wooden sign.)

**Metal Fire Rings:** Been added/installed at Dead Pine, Brown Dog, Old Sawmill, Bumble Bee Ridge and Big Oak Springs.

Thanks to FDR folks for giving those to us. Rings to be installed at Big Knot, Sparks Creek and Beech Bottom.

Quite a few blowdowns over last few months. Nearly weekly Eddie Hall using new saw on them. This past week he cut 7 on the Chestnut Oak Trail and one on Sawtooth Trail.

**Map sales and trash-bags:** Post last meeting, on 3/3 ... 3000 2023 maps with additions of Carl's Cove were picked up ... Jim noted the increase in cost by about .30 and thus we will be rounding up online price up to \$6.00 from \$5. Charging FDR park office \$3.50 (with our cost of \$1.49) The park has already bought some 800 maps. We had a large supply of trash bags printed for Backpackers only.

Communicorp has printed us some 36" long maps on heavy paper suitable for framing and already 3 sold. Selling those for \$30 and cost us \$13.55 each. Giving FDR 1 (one for rescue use)

**Park Rescues and lost hikers-** Mark Rissinger told that they have had very few situations lately. Mainly had to pick up several hikers who had over anticipated their ability to hike a section or got too hot.

**Park Office Hours** are wrong on the 2023 map and will be corrected on next printing. Corrected on website.

**Website:** Jim Pound , thankfully still keeps things up and made corrections adding new map, rearranging the FAQ page, and updates as needed. Thanks also to Jerry Brown for his continued work on membership.

Meeting concluded just after 8 p.m Next meeting set for September 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm to be held at the Group Shelter below the dam in the RV Campground of FDR State Park. Members of the PMTA are invited. This will not be a supper meeting so eat before- hand or bring a sandwich or something and eat as we start meeting.. We will have water and soft drinks for all.

Any questions or comments, feel free to call me.at 706-325-4113

Jim Hall- Secretary of the PMTA Board.