



September 19, 2023 , PMTA Board meeting (met at small group shelter at FDR State Park)

Started right at 6:30.....

Not attending: Sam Burke (see below), Richard Ramey and Tom Flournoy . Present were PMTA members Craig Myers and Eric Schoonove and at end of meeting FDR Park Manager Desmond Timmons came in..

Malon did the welcome and Finance report. \$5775.59 in Synovus checking. Main account setting at \$ _111,815.01. Malon gave report as our friend Sam Burke is recovering from back surgery he had done in Birmingham. . Jim reported Sam is doing better and up walking some around outside. Said pain much lower and 80% better on movement.

New business:

Jerry Brown- Membership report (attached) Noted was new memberships slowed down.

Tom Flournoy- Was not present due to last minute conflict with a Springer board situation. . Tom sent a draft of letter to DNR which Malon covered along with copy of original quick claim deed for added properties to the park. Jim added in the highlights of some old newspaper articles and records telling of President FDR's wishes for the future of the "new park" which most importantly said that the park was to be first and foremost for recreation and protected from fire. Jim noted too that the ridge road (former farm land along what is now GA 190) was planted in 1936 with some 16,300 hardwoods and 16,500 loblolly and longleaf pines (covering former bare farmlands.) by the CCC. Malon said hopefully Tom can use some of this against the burns to keep them totally away from the trails, seeing the trees all did NOT just grow up over time but were planted by the CCC. Surely the state does not want to burn/kill CCC era planted trees. Tom did state in the draft that the PMTA was not totally against burns to reduce fuel around building and places such as spring heads. He proposed a lot smaller percentage of the park be controlled burned than the DNR's proposed plan presented to us in June. The letter to DNR to go out soon. Idea is for an agreement letter of understanding to be in force for minimum of two years and NOTHING done without being presented and agreed upon with us/PMTA.

Suggestions for New board members- Craig Myers was present with Eric Schoonover. Craig suggested we consider Eric for our board. Eric is sending us a brief bio information letter and we will agreed, to vote via email for his addition to the board. Craig and Eric led a group backpacking trip this past weekend and have another two-night 23 mile trip set for late October which reservations are full for. They will continue to lead backpacking trips several times a year. This past weekend, the group did Big Poplar loop counter clockwise and camped at Beech Bottom Campsite. Lastly, Malon noted attempts at youth involvement with PMTA board and activities seems to have not taken off as planned. .

Trail maintaining plans: Jim : Told of current trail maintainers and noted of encouraging them. New maintainer Pete McGuire has taken on Mile 11.2 to Beech Bottom and access road intersection. As for workdays, below are the target areas to be taken on starting with Jim and Mark planning a workday in October and November.

Things that need to be done on the trail:

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 the bridge..

Beaver Pond Trail north side needs weed eating and limbs cut.

Park asked to help with scraping access road toward Old Sawmill.

Check out and think about work along Mile 13 to Hines Gap Road. Need to organize work day for this in cooler time....Maybe for November workday.

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

Jim redid a old display case from Dowdell's Knob and put map section and info in it and installed at Rocky Point Parking Lot .

Metal Fire Rings: Jim reminded that they have been added/installed at Dead Pine, Brown Dog, Old Sawmill, Bumble Bee Ridge and Big Oak Springs. Craig suggested we hold off adding any more except maybe one for Sparks Creek. Thanks to FDR folks for giving those to us.

Quite a few blowdowns over last few months. Nearly weekly Eddie Hall using new saw on them. This past week he cut some on BootTop Trail and couple more places. . Sunday 9/17. Jim and Pete McGuire cut some near Mile 9, and just east of Old Sawmill. At present time we are caught up to our knowledge on blowdowns for first time in a while.

Jim noted the sign post for intersection of White Candle and Beaver Pond on west end of White Candle Trail needs to be replaced and he and Eddie will get that done soon.

Map sales: Park map sales slowed recently but will pick back up. We have inventory of 1400 on maps and park has about 350. So we good on maps till say February of 2024. Jim noted online he mails out about 10 per week. It was noted that Foxes Pizza would like to display a large PMT map, to Jim is make a frame and mount a 36" map for them soon. Whistling Pig BBQ and Iron Horse Grill both had display maps.

Park Rescues and lost hikers- Desmond noted that recently he and park ranger had had very few situations since the one near Dowdell's Knob in July with guy pooped out and misreported his location. Desmond thanked us for all we do saying the park could not have the trail without us.

Website: Jim Hall reported that Jim Pound , thankfully still keeps things up and made corrections, rearranging the FAQ page, and updates as needed. Board gave Jerry Brown a big thank-you for continued work on membership things and keeping deposit made from mail in things.

Meeting concluded at 7:40...__Next meeting set for_Monday December 18th at 6:30 to be held at Flournoy offices in Brookstone Center. We are inviting any PMTA members to attend the meeting, just asking for heads up they coming. Jim to post this on PMTA facebook page. **Members reading this on the website may call Jim at 706-325-4113 to let us know they wish to attend and get directions.**

Membership Report as of 09/17/2023

Organization Life	21
Family Life	117
Individual Life	96
Total Life	234
Organization Annual	27
Family Annual	100
Individual Annual	86
Total Annual	213
Complimentary	13

All Memeberships	460
Lapsed Memberships	96
Total Active Memberships	364
Total Paid Memberships	351

New Members Since 9/1/2022

	Annual	Life	Total
Organizations	8	1	9
Family	26	2	28
Individual	14	5	19
Total	48	8	56

Last 12 months

eMemberships	49
eRenewals	38
Electronic Transactions	87
Check Membership	2
Check Renewal	5
Check Transactions	7
Total Transactions	94

93% of all annual payments are electronic.
88% of Renewals are electronic
96% of New Memberships are electronic

Memberships that have not renewed in past 2 years have been removed.

