

Sierra Freepackers Meeting Notes - January 16, 2024

In attendance: Patrica Vallentyne, Teri Cook, Gloria Garland, Mary Odell, Lee Smith, Belinda Gonzalez Denise Robinson, Robbie Robinson, Karoline Waggle, and Joan

Patrica called the meeting to order at 6:35pm

Minutes: Karolinne W. motioned to approve the 12/2023 minutes; Terri C. seconded the motion, and the minutes passed unanimously.

Reports:

- **Treasurer Report:** Currently not available as Laurie W. is out of town.
- **Education:** Denise states that there is nothing to report.
- **Public Lands:** Patrica reports that our Unit has been approached by Head Ranger Shawana Polen at Hensley Lake to sign a memo of understanding (MOU). We would be required to contribute 100 hours of trail work (recon, trail work, photographing the trails, etc.) per year. Volunteer hours can be used in exchange for special use permits for club events and free entry. Denise reports that she spoke with Debbie McDougal and let her know we are ready for projects.
- **Membership:** We welcomed several new members to the unit - Lee Smith and Brenda We have a few expired memberships.

Unfinished Business:

- **BCHC Rendezvous:** March 22-23 at Diamond Bar Arena in Ceres. We will not be hosting the art show this year. We have raffle tickets to sell. A local beer/wine donation is requested by the hosting unit. Donations for the silent auction were discussed, and we will purchase an item from the vendors at the rendezvous. Denise suggested the formation of a committee to create table decorations. Gloria G. offered the use of a laminator to create placemats from past rendezvous covers. Several unit members are participating in the trail trails competition.
- **New Year's Day Ride:** Hensley Lake - Sixteen riders attended.
- **BCHC Leadership Training:** For mid-state units will be held in Porterville on 1/27/24. Officers and committee members are welcome to attend.
- **Fundraiser in 2024:** Gloria reports that Kathy Pettit from Verdi View Farms in Sanger is available to host a trail trails event for us. She will get back to us with available dates and prices. Several options and ideas were discussed.

New Business:

- **Calendar for 2024:** Patrica submitted a tentative event calendar for 2024.
- **BCHC BoD Meeting:** Patrica will attend in March. Education and Public Lands chairs should attend.
- **Announcements from the Floor:** Gloria G. mentioned the possible loss of access to the Ahwahnee Hills Park Trails due to insurance increases for coverage and the need for our unit to pursue possible fundraising and user access options. There are some possible grant funding options through Yosemite Sequoia Resource Conservation and Development Council www.ysrcandd.org.

Additional Notes:

- Agenda items are requested for the next meeting.
- Next meeting is February 20, 2024.