

Sierra Freepackers Meeting Notes – March 19, 2024

In Attendance: Patricia Vallentyne, Teri Cook, Gloria Garland, Mary Odell, Lee Smith, John Wagoner, Denise Robinson, Robbie Robinson, Marlis Rohrer, Karoline Waggle, Richard Waggle, and Kelli Land.

Meeting Called to Order: Patricia V. called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM.

Minutes:

- Motion to approve the minutes from February 2024 made by Karoline W., seconded by John Wagoner. The minutes passed unanimously.

Reports:

Treasurer Report: Patricia Vallentyne presented the report, indicating a beginning and an ending balance. Two new memberships were noted: an associate's membership for \$85 and an additional membership for \$25.

Education: Mary O. shared an article on the unit's Facebook page with tips and advice on vehicle and trailer preparations for the upcoming season.

Public Lands: Patricia reported on a meeting with past and current Yosemite packers and park managers. Topics included ongoing issues facing the equestrian community and packers, neglect of Curry Stables, parking issues for trailers and larger vehicles, and equestrian trail access blocked by barriers. A Change.org campaign and petition were discussed. Unit members were encouraged to submit their own letters to the superintendent and to cc the unit for documentation.

Letters can be sent to: Cicely Muldoon, Superintendent
P.O. Box 577
Yosemite National Park, CA 95389

Ahwahnee Hills Regional Park is holding a meeting to discuss bicycles in the park. Equestrians from the community are encouraged to attend on 3/20/24 at 6 PM in the Acorn Schoolhouse.

Unit members are encouraged to write letters of support for equestrian-only trails to:
Supervisor Bobby Macaulay
200 W. 4th Street
Madera, CA 93637
district5@maderacounty.com

Unfinished Business:

- Mary reminded everyone to keep track of all hours, including preparations for workdays and Rendezvous.
- Mariposa Historical Museum Cowboy Days: Mary O., John W., and Denise R. (in costume) presented a packing demonstration with iron mules. Membership applications were distributed, and Kelli Land demonstrated spinning.
- October Fundraising: Gloria will reach out to Kathy Pettit.

New Business:

- Denise will contact Fresno Flats regarding a Dutch oven cooking and packing demonstration in May or June, possibly during Heritage Days.
- Raymond Parade on 4/20 was discussed. Patricia V. will send out an email inquiry to the unit to gauge interest.

Announcements from the Floor:

- Unit members are encouraged to obtain youth cards to facilitate working with children at public events, including Heritage Days, Library reading programs, 4H, FFA, and youth mentoring.
- Mary O. identified several trees down on the Bass Lake trail system. A workday has been proposed pending rain.

Agenda Items for Next Meeting: Agenda items are requested for the next meeting.

Next Meeting: April 16, 2024

Meeting Adjourned: 7:33 PM