

SIERRA FREEPACKERS MEETING MINUTES

August 18, 2020

Meeting called to order by President Cathy Miller at 6:41 p.m.

Minutes: Motion to approve the June minutes as presented made by Karoline; seconded by Mary. Minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report: Laurie reported on the unit balance. Denise mentioned visitors up at GC wanted to make donations to the unit. She provided information for donating, and asked that donations for GC be earmarked "gates" so we can add some gate panels to the current set up.

Membership: Laurie reported no new members, and one membership renewal.

Education: Denise reported on bear activity up at Granite Creek; she has a very active bear up there and is asking everyone in the woods to be bear aware. Short discussion about the possibility of adding bear boxes to the campground at GC.

Public Lands: Patricia reported on a request by Ann and Gary Bates; they would like Freepacker members to write Yosemite Park regarding the corrals in Yosemite Valley. Patricia also reported on a second issue: Comments on the OHV program in the NF. Patricia wrote a letter, suggested ways OHV issues can be mitigated (human waste and trash, specifically). She suggested more enforcement officers targeting OHV users. A third issue: Bob Magee (BCHA) would like us to take photos of non horse people using horse sites in developed camp grounds. BCHA is trying to track how often it happens. The concern is that it's ok for everyone else to use horse sites, but horses are not ok in any site except horse sites. This severely limits the options for horse campers.

Old Business:

1. Corral set up Granite Creek: We now have 18 corrals set up. This was made possible by the giant donation of panels to the unit late June. Short discussion on perhaps adding corrals to some of the sites to make sure people know it's a horse camp on this side. Discussion on how to secure them.
2. On July 4th, some unit members went to Fish Camp to do a "meet and greet" for people camping there. Information given about trash, poop, and fires. No problems noted.
3. Granite Creek Work Week: Went well, food was reported to be outstanding. Trail work mostly limited to the Yellow Jacket Trail where 157 trees were removed in a 1.7 mile distance.
4. Kelley Work: Several unit members put in time over the course of several days installing the pump and clearing trails.
5. Saddles: Gloria took on the job of trying to sell saddles and other gear offered along with the panels. Despite Gloria's heroic efforts, only some bits have sold so far. General discussion on options. Mary suggested putting a deadline on the sale and if still not sold take them to auction in Madera.
6. Enclosed Trailer: Mary and John continue to work on this project.

New Business

1. Sharon brought up the continuing issue of short planned events that fit only the calendars of a selected few members to the overall exclusion of the rest of the unit members. She also brought up the lack of "fun rides" offered. Cathy stated she used to plan a monthly ride but quit when she saw that no one showed up. Lots of discussion and dissent. Marlins volunteered to set up a poll to see where most unit member's interest lay. Issue to be followed up with poll results. Gloria made a statement that she was committed to inclusion and would be working towards it within the unit.
2. Marlins volunteered to organize some fun rides. The first tentative date will be Saturday, September 12. Location to be determined.
3. Tentatively the unit planned a Chili Cook Off earlier in the year for Oct. 17 at Hensley. To be determined.
4. Patricia offered to share her SNF trash pick up (the very large piles) but clarified it will likely be shorter notice than the group would prefer. Several members were willing to help.

General Discussion/Announcements:
Nothing to report.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 15. Actual date, time and location to be determined.

Meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m; motioned by Karoline; seconded by Marlis

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Seslowe