

Sierra Freepackers Meeting Notes – July 16, 2024

In Attendance: Patricia Vallentyne, Gloria Garland, Teri Cook, Denise Robinson, Robbie Robinson, Lee Smith, Sharon Seslowe, and Debbie McDougald

Meeting Called to Order: Patricia V. called the meeting to order at 6:45 PM.

Minutes:

- Motion to approve the minutes with amendments from June 2024 was made by Denise Robinson and seconded by Gloria Garland. The minutes passed unanimously.

Reports:

Membership:

- Welcome to our new unit member, Peggy DeBuyser

Treasurer Report: To be presented later.

Education:

- Denise R. and Sharon S. reported on the Wilderness Riders meeting at Happy Camp. They observed CalFire's methods and different techniques for public education and fire management. LNT versus Light on the Land was also discussed. Additional reports will be available in the state newsletter.

Public Lands:

- Patricia V. and Gloria G. attended a meeting of the Eastern Madera County Foundation to learn more about grants available to local and community nonprofits.
- Patricia will continue to reach out to Hensley Lake management to create an MOU for the unit.

Unfinished Business:

- **Chainsaw Certification:** Debbie M. informed us of an upcoming chainsaw certification through the Prather office – she will keep us informed.

Fundraising:

- Our New Year's raffle ride at Hensley Lake will be held on January 1, 2025. More unit discussions, volunteers, and planning are needed. The unit is encouraged to start approaching local vendors and other contributors for raffle items. It is suggested that we advertise a grand prize. Patricia will reach out to management at Hensley. Lee Smith will reach out to Ace Hardware to inquire about a possible chainsaw donation.

Trail Work Planning and Projects:

- **Snow Play Area Trail Work:** In July, members cleared trails of debris. The trail is cleared to the green gate and to the back park entrance. The trail around Kelty needs some more work. Currently, hot weather conditions prevent chainsaw work in the forest.
- Debbie M. informed us of grants available for trail work, travel, and related equipment purchases. Equipment needs were discussed, and Patricia V. made a motion to purchase PPE and equipment with grant funds. The motion passed unanimously. Lee S. will assist in equipment selection.
- Clover Meadow & Fernandez trails have been identified as needing attention due to extreme overgrowth.
- Clover Meadow group campout and work party is planned for July 28 to August 8. Patricia will send out an email to encourage further signups.
- **Radios:** Cori Hyath (SNF) brought a radio to loan to the unit.
- **Ahwahnee Hills Regional Park:** My Club will be developing a children's recreation area, including a fenced-off bike trail. The horse and hiking trails are overgrown and need signage. Cooler weather trail work events for the park were discussed. Lu Ann Mello represented the horse community and attended a meeting with Friends of Ahwahnee Hills Regional Park, Bobby Mccauley, and My Club. Her letter outlining the meeting was read at the meeting.

Agenda Items for Next Meeting:

- Agenda items are requested for the next meeting.

Next Meeting: August 20, 2024, at Oakhurst Branch Library at 6:30 PM.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:06 PM.