

PARKS AREA CONNECTION MEETING MINUTES

Date/Location: 14 September 2021, Whisenhunt/King Garage (12854 E. Lonesome Dove)

1. **Call to Order** – Chairperson George Chambers called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
2. **Roll Call** – George Chambers, Joanie Raetzel, Babs Felix, John Sears, Mary Smith, Bonnie Jackson, Chief Lee Antonides, Bob and Renee Bass, Mel Miller, Charlotte and Bill Moss, Cyndi and Joe Pacheco, Whiz, Cindy Chambers, Diane Pacheco, Benita Holloway, Julie King, Ron Smith, Tim Toombs, Sherry and Bob Baker, Tish Bradford, Gloria Harmon, Donna and Jim Holt, Jeanne Topell, Tom and Mary Gardener, Kevin, Betsy, and 4 people from Kaibab National Forest (Timber Tom Dauenhauer, Jessie Ouzts, Samantha Flores, Andrew Kehler) were present.
3. **Approval of the Minutes** – Bill Moss moved, seconded by Babs Felix, to approve the minutes of 10 Aug 2021 as written. Motion unanimously approved.
4. **Financial Report** – Joanie Raetzel presented the financial report for Aug 2021:

PAC Financial Report Aug 2021

Beginning Balance (8/1/2021)	8754.00
Revenues (8/1 thru 8/31)	190.39
Membership Dues	40.00
Knife Raffle	60.00
Knife Sharpening/Sales	82.00
Amazon Smile Donations	8.39
Expenditures (8/1 thru 8/31)	134.25
Rt 66 Sign Paint	56.60
Bake Sale Expenses	20.72
Misc Supplies (Face Masks)	16.37
Defassio Family Cleanup Expenses (Water/Serving utensils)	40.56
Ending Balance (8/31/2021)	8810.14

5. **Forestry presentation/questions on thinning** - 4 personnel from the US Forest Service, Kaibab National Forest, were present to discuss the on-going thinning project and answer questions.
 - Tim Toombs set up this meeting to get some direct answers; he said there has been virtually no communication between Forestry and the public. He suggested putting signs up at the stores, kiosk and electronic signs along the roads to ease concerns about what is going on.
 - Andrew Kehler, the acting Forest Ranger, said they have been trying to do an outreach program for a long time, but COVID didn't allow that. The purpose of the thinning

project is to attempt to return to better forest health. Andy apologized that information didn't get out like intended because people were sent home due to the pandemic. There are still a lot of acres to thin. There is only one person that does press releases for Forestry. There are limited times when the thinning crew can work, usually sunrise to sunset. Trees are marked and remarked if needed. Jessie O talked about her background.

- Question - why so many trees remove – seems excessive – answer: there has been tons of research to determine the amount of timber to remove and location; they can't answer all our questions during this venue, but fire was taken out of the system over time and now there are too many trees per acre. This is a science-based approach.
 - Question – how will Parks residents be informed going forward? Answer – it was suggested to let the Fire Department know and they can spread the word. Forestry will start using more social media more and can post maps at the stores and kiosk.
 - Timber Tom discussed what the tree markings mean. Orange – these are boundary trees, all will stay.
 - Question – when will the slash piles be burned? Answer – the slash piles need to dry out for a year – they will be burned after that when there is enough moisture.
 - Question – when will the area south of the Sherwood Forest Park Subdivision be thinned (west of Spring Valley Rd). Answer - no definitive date yet; this area will be thinned based on several factors and there is a finite amount of resources. This is part of the Moonset project which is in limbo for a while. There is no current contract for this area, but it is a priority. For the current contract, about 4000 acres should be done by October.
 - Money from timber sales goes to national budget; the timber goes to Phoenix pallet mills and a facility in the White mountains. Slash piles cannot be used for chips but can go to bio generating plant. Wood cannot be taken from slash piles due to safety concerns.
 - The drivers of the logging trucks were complimented for their consideration in keeping their speed down.
 - There will be one snag left for every 5 acres as a “wildlife hotel”.
 - Question – what do the ribbons on the trees mean? Answer – don't know, but they will find out.
 - Visit the KNF home page to see pictures of how the forest looked long ago vs now.
 - Smoke mitigation #1 concern prior to any burns.
 - Chief Lee commented that there is a lot of science that goes into these decisions and all thinning projects are approved by regional headquarters; this is not a simple task. The water shed is taken into account during thinning project. The forest service has restrictions during fire season.
 - Suggestion – maybe slash should be put on the skid trails to prevent use by Razors, etc. Any concerns, call forestry and they will try to stop
 - Forestry was thanked for opening Moonset Pit and Buggy Wheel pit.
 - Forestry will make large versions of maps for posting. Andy's phone number is 928-310-8326.
 - Thanks to Tim Tombs for arranging this meeting.
6. **PFD News** – The PFD is applying for grants for new vehicles, totaling about \$250k. Ron Smith is concerned that the Parks station is not manned, commitments were made to community.

Chief said there is a struggle to get enough people and budget to staff the Parks station; most of the vehicle maintenance is done at the Bellemont station. They are trying to staff the Parks station on Saturdays. Most calls are in Bellemont. They are trying to build up the volunteer program and trying to get grants for personnel. The plan is to alternate crews by next summer.

7. **SFE Events/News** – item tabled
8. **Community Center Update** – Kay Peterson held a meeting at the school to discuss her thoughts on a community center. She handed out a survey, which can be dropped off at either store. Her plan is to use the school facilities for community events during non-school hours, with funding from grants and donations (no tax money). There will be no infringement on any other non-profits. The main issue right now is trying to get an insurance policy.
9. **Raffle** -The last knife raffle was 5 Sept – Gregg Knapp won the knife and Haden Dewit won O'Reilly's auto parts bucket. A total of \$330 worth of tickets was sold over Labor Day weekend.
10. **Green Waste Update** – done for the year.
11. **Defassio update** – Tim is going to the Defassios on Friday to look at the heating duct work. We understand they are financially stable at this point.
12. **Holiday Food Baskets** – Bonnie has volunteered to do food baskets again this year; there are 6 families in need. The fire department will provide presents.
13. **Other items not on agenda** –
 - A Parks community member with health issues is in need of firewood.
14. **Location, Date, and time of next meeting** – The next meeting will be Tuesday, October 12, 2021 at 6pm, Whisenhunt/King residence.
15. **Adjournment** – Ron Smith moved, seconded by Tim Toombs, to adjourn the meeting. Chairperson George Chambers adjourned the meeting at 8:01 pm.

Recorded by: Joanie Raetzel
Secretary for Parks Area Connection