

CCA Spring Meeting 2022, Saturday April 30

Members present (zoom or in person): Tom Orum, Nancy Ferguson, Daniel Baker, Patrick McGinnis, Layla Verbance, Susan Tollefson, Karen McKelvey, Alex Binford-Walsh, Gail Loveland, Cindy Salo, Sue Newman, Barbara Clark, John Welsh, Katie Talbott, Lynn Smith-Lovin, Anna Lands, Andrew Volz. Board members present (zoom or in person): Tom Talbott, David Omick, Pearl Mast, Birgit De Gregorio, Vera Mortiz, Erik Revere, Chris Eastoe

Sojourner Reflections - read by Susan T.

Winter meeting 2022 Minutes -

motion to approve, Gail L, second Pearl M.. Motion carried

Financial Report (*attached*) - Birgit D.

motion to approve David O, second Pearl M.. Motion carried

Investment Strategy -

Points from working meeting with investment advisor, Brad Stephan presented by Chris E.- keep 3-5 years operating expenses readily available (approx \$100K), consider Vanguard values-related index funds, consider conservative mix of 15% stocks and 85% bonds, invest incrementally perhaps investing \$50K per quarter until reach \$200K with quarterly evaluation by Board, CCA required by law to use donated funds prudently.

Motion made by Erik R. to invest 10k in Vanguard fund (to be decided, but 85% bonds and 15% stocks) every two months until 50k is invested, with the opportunity for reflection on this investment before each investment cycle. Barbara C accepted motion, second Alex B.

Much discussion:

Susan T. - Makes sense, prudent to wait 3-4 months.

Anna L. - Inquiry to Peoples Bank, why not stay with them?

Birgit D. - Support Susan and Anna's comments, we can do other things to protect our money. Our goal is not to make money but rather to use our money towards conservation. Perhaps offer to fund (lend) to other projects within the Cascabel community that support tangible value.

Karen M. - Historically stock market investments have been beneficial financially. If we proceed we should be in it for the long-haul. This investment makes sense.

Alex B. - General comment on financial markets. Suggests "emerging markets" fund.

Vera M. - Suggests smaller initial investment (25k). Suggest CCA allow donors to earmark donations to the investment pool

More discussion.

Motion made to proceed, Erik R.'s Motion carried with two abstentions (Anna L. and Patrick M.)

Baicatcan Land Committee report - Erik R.

Grounds and facilities are in good condition. Andrew V. is current camp host. Host stipend is within budget.

Communications report - Katie T.

Katie Sharar is welcomed by CCA for her future work with CCA communications. Katie S. will work 8-10 hours a month on various projects including the newsletter and processing information from the Liverman Scholars. Still a need for some help with the newsletter and more. Karen M., Birgit D, and Sue N will be helping Katie S produce the next newsletter.

Special Proposal presented by Andrew Voltz (*attached*).

Much Discussion.

Motion made by Erik R. to reinstate the Education committee and approve use of 2k funds if two members volunteer for the committee. Committee would be charged with discussing Andrew's Proposal. Second Birgit D.

Much Discussion

Katie - supportive of Andrew's proposal but not ready to move forward with Erik's motion. Need more time to discuss.

Patrick M. - themes of the proposal should maybe be discussed separately, so saying 'yes' or 'no' to one issue wouldn't necessarily mean 'yes' or 'no' to the others; CCA's current education focus is conservation and sanctuary, issue of CCA financially matching neighboring businesses or enterprises that may or may not parallel covenant values in specific practices

Patrick M. and Alex - alternative ideas (CCA avenues for encouraging conservation-minded youth in the valley)

Barbara C. and Birgit D. - Proposal needs more development.

Birgit D. - Concern over losing traditional events of the Education committee (mesquite milling).

Gail L. Suggestion to discuss further at the next meeting.

Previous vote (8 members in favor, 6 members dissenting and 4 members abstaining) did not represent a consensus. Several members stating general support of idea, but unready to move forward with specific proposal.

Notice: A special work sessions is scheduled for Sunday May 8 at the CCC to further discuss the future of the Education committee and Andrew's Proposal.

Hermitage Report (*attached*).

General information on Sabbatical Gatherings, workshops and the truck fundraiser. Committee is waiting for a more opportune time to purchase the new truck. Other updates included (see report).

Hermitage - Hot Springs Canyon hiker access.

General discussion.

Katie T - The Hermitage program has a limited role in the parking and access questions involving hiker access.

Chris E. - General input and more general discussion.

Erik R. Canyon road signs are decision of the Canyon Road and Sage Hill Road residents, of which CCA is (only) one landowner.

Tom T. - SJ important stakeholder, since primary parking area is on SJ land

Katie T. - Second parking area is yet to be cleared and is on the work party agenda.

Outcome: CCA feels this is a neighborhood issue of which CCA is only one stakeholder. There were no apparent objections to this conclusion.

Conservation Program

Barbara Clark – Continues work on yellow-billed cuckoo monitoring needs for this summer, researched access easement issues in the Gavin river crossing area related to SunZia efforts to find access there.

Pearl – Vigneto lawsuit continues on hold. SunZia Draft Environmental Impact Statement out; CCA will be commenting

Anna - If anyone wishes to be on the Sun Zia info listserve please contact Kai.

Garden Report - Gail L. and Erik R.

Thanks to the considerable contribution of time and care by the McGinnis and Verbrance family, and others, the garden is full of beautiful summer vegetable starts. Approx. \$900 was made during the Spring Garden Party.

Events - ASW will be doing some site monitoring at Baicatcan for the Agave Project.

Saguaro Juniper Report - Tom Orum

SJ is pleased with the ongoing collaboration with CCA. The grant for the 1.5 mile of water line repair work has paid for the successful completion of the project. SJ has elected three new board members and meets every two weeks.

Next meeting: Sept 24, 2022. Noon potluck at the CCC followed by the meeting. See Notice above.

Special note: Post-meeting reflections by Susan Tollefson are *attached*.