

**MINUTES OF THE CCA MEMBERS MEETING**  
on  
**October 15, 2022**

This was a hybrid meeting, in-person at the Cascabel Community Center, with a couple people on Zoom.

**Attending were:** Chris Eastoe, Birgit DeGregorio, Katie and Tom Talbott, Pearl Mast, David Omick, Erik Revere, Barbara Clark, Gail Loveland, Susan Tollefson, Anna Lands, John Welch, Karen McKelvey, Bob Evans, James Callegary, Daniel Baker, Barbara Clark, Lisa Vogel, Roby Wallace

**I. INTRODUCTION:** Chris chaired the meeting.

**A. Introductions:** Attendees introduced themselves.

**B. Sojourner Comments**

Susan read sojourner comment from May, 2021.

*"I came to find clarity as I move to the next phase of my life. The quiet and solitude reminded me to just sit and observe movements around me, listen to the birds and the house talking, feel the changes in shadows, heat and coolness as the sun moves (or the earth rotates); and be awed by the display of stars each night. I have remembered to eat slowly without a book or screen; walk carefully watching the ground and listen to my mind empty. It took three days just to empty the voices in my head of friends, family, and things I should be doing. As I drive out the canyon, I know I can bring myself back to this feeling of peace as I remember this place, this time."*

**C. Minutes of last meeting April 30, 2022**

Minutes were accepted without further discussion.

**II. Business and Administration**

**A. Financial and Investment report** (See attached Financial Report.)

**Financial:** Birgit shared the Financial Report for the year to date. She pointed out that CCA took in \$22,451 and spent \$55,526. Chris noted that CCA has continued to invest in capital improvements. Several people noted that the newsletter fundraiser has not taken place this year yet, and that the Hermitage Truck Fundraiser took place last year, while the money was spent this year. Susan and James requested more detailed information about fundraisers, like an extra column on financial reports. Katie motioned and Tom T seconded the motion to clarify the Truck Fundraiser on this report and the Financial Report was accepted with that stipulation.

**Investment:** Chris reported that, while he had planned to make initial investments in a mutual fund per the plans outlined at our last meeting, he has not done so because of the volatility of the stock market, and that nothing about the current markets suggests to him that it would be prudent to do so in the near future. Several people suggested that we continue to use the money for projects, buy land or to loan to collaborators at a low rate of interest.

Birgit stated that she most supports investing in tangible assets and made a motion that CCA make a donation of \$5000 to the Cascabel Community Center to the fund for replacement of the roof. Anna seconded the motion. Katie questioned how donors to conservation might feel about contributing to the CCC. There was discussion of the frequency with which CCA makes use of the CCC, the importance of the CCC to the Cascabel community and CCA's activities within the community, and the fact that CCC has partnered with CCA for conservation. The motion was accepted by consensus.

## **B. Baicatcan Land Committee**

Erik reported that the summer season was quiet as usual, though more and more reservations are coming in for the fall. He noted that with the wet summer, it's been difficult to keep ahead of weeds on the grounds. He is thinking of sending out a notice to members offering a work trade for use of the cabin, and questioned whether anyone objected. No one did. Other work on the grounds has included planting trees, irrigation work, and sloping the bottom of the airstrip road to run down to the water basin.

John Welch reported on a grant awarded to ASW by Southwestern Foundation to grow ancient agaves on the airstrip adjacent to ancient agave fields. He reported that Desert Botanical, the group growing the pups, has experienced some challenges getting the pups ready for transplanting. Bill Doelle and another colleague recently did mapping by drone and soil testing to determine where to plant the agaves and how. They will be sharing this information with CCA as the results become available, and then will be ready for the actual planting.

## **C. Communication**

Karen M. reported that the newsletter is ready, after a number of challenges. Katie Sharer, CCA communications contractor, took the lead, with help from Karen. This issue focuses on the communication pieces produced by the Liverman Scholars who visited Cascabel last February.

## **D. Saguaro-Juniper announcements**

James C. announced that an important SJ shareholders meeting will take place on October 22, at which the proposal to transition SJ from a for-profit to a non-profit will be considered.

## **III. Conservation Program (see attached report)**

Pearl reported that the main activity of the Committee has been directed at SunZia, which has concurrent Federal and State permitting processes happening at this time. We have been active in opposing SunZia on both levels. (See report)

Reporting on other ongoing issues and activities, she said that the lawsuit about the Villages at Vigneto permit has been dropped since nothing has been done to reinstate the permit for over a year. Also, Joe Page is just back from Alaska and is tending to the wildlife cameras. No Yellow-billed cuckoo surveys were done this year because of lack of volunteers. As part of the Lower San Pedro Collaborative Connectivity Work Group's Fence Inventory program, a fence removal day will take place in Cascabel in December.

Regarding the Conservation Program budget, Pearl reported that there have been few expenses so far this year, and that she and David will not be accepting the stipend they have been receiving for services as chair of the Conservation Committee.

## **IV. Hermitage Program (See attached budget request)**

Susan Tollefson reported that the sojourner season is beginning on Nov. 7. Some sojourners seem to be waiting to make reservations until the Caravan is open for reservations. She also announced that she has started a monthly email newsletter called "Sojourning News," highlighting current happenings. She has gotten positive response from former sojourners. Also, monthly Sabbatical gatherings continue the second Saturday of each month. Recent places of gathering have been Hot Springs Canyon, walking with goats in the San Pedro River, and the Commons trail.

Susan also reported that the successful truck fundraiser of last year has been put to use, with the purchase of a 2004 4WD Toyota Tacoma for less than had been fundraised. It has been working well.

Katie then explained the attached hermitage budget request. She emphasized that the hermitage committee has been working together over the past four years to honor the vision and work by Daniel Baker and others, and add to that vision by taking steps to ensure

that the program will last into the future. Most of the major pieces of that future plan are in place now.

The investments that have been made in the long-term viability of the program, especially in the Caravan, have resulted in a current deficit of ~\$2400, with several more thousand dollars of expenses expected before the Caravan is settled in place and fully outfitted. The hermitage committee is requesting a transfer of \$7500 from the General Fund to the Hermitage Fund to cover those expenses. Susan noted that sojourner donations are generally adequate to cover regular expenses, but that this transfer of funds would help complete setting the program up on a sustainable basis. Pearl made a motion to transfer \$7500 from the general fund to the Hermitage Fund to cover the current deficit and expected expenses to complete the Caravan project. Gail seconded. David noted that he is not charging for placing the Caravan in its location. Daniel expressed appreciation of the vibrant hermitage program. The motion was accepted by consensus, with Erik and David standing aside because of their involvement in building the Caravan.

Katie passed around a recently revised version of the Hermitage Committee Prickly Pear planning document to give a visual of principles and projects for the next year or two. She expressed appreciation to Vera Moritz for the original version of this, stating that it has been a very helpful tool in easily seeing the scope of what the Committee is doing, agreeing on committee priorities, and resolving disputes. (See attached photo of the simplified version of this document.)

Karen reported on plans for a Hermitage Open House, Fundraiser and Strawbale Hermitage Retirement Ceremony on November 19 from 10 AM – 4 PM. It will be an opportunity to show everyone the new features at the Corbett Center, to mark the start of using the new Caravan, and to recognize the transition to a new phase for the strawbale hermitage. The invitation will be going out soon.

#### **V. Garden**

Gail did the garden report. She reported that the Community Garden looks different than it has previously, that it is a “jungle” of green as a result of the “living soil” methods that Patrick and Layla introduced. She mentioned that this method has greatly reduced problems with aphids, insects and too much sun exposure. She reported that there was a meeting of 15 gardeners recently to talk about how we wish to continue since Patrick and Layla have moved on. A hybrid approach was agreed upon, making use of the great soil, while mowing paths to move about more easily and identifying and removing particularly noxious weeds.

#### **VI. Events Announcements**

Tom T reported that 2 of the former Liverman Scholars will be visiting on Nov. 5. These students are working with Andrew Volz to create a proposal for an internship program for Cascabel. This initiative in turn flowed from Andrew’s proposal last spring for a joint education program among CCA, SJ, and CCC.

James C mentioned the Quivira Coalition conference being held in November in Denver.

#### **VII. Next Meeting**

January 7 was selected as the next meeting date, at noon at the CCC..

Pearl Mast, Meeting Secretary