

Cascabel Conservation Association
Spring Meeting Minutes
4/13/2024

In person attendance at CCC: Katie Talbott, Tom Talbott, John Welch, Birgit De Gregorio, Pearl Mast, David Omick, Sue Newman, Alex Binford-Walsh, Erik Revere, Gail Loveland, Bill Doelle, Dave Shreeve, Susan Tollefson, Daniel Baker, Barbara Clark, Edith Robinson, Andrew Connelly, Marissa Katz, Andrew Volz, Kai Staats, Colleen Cooley, Karen McKelvey
Zoom Attendance: Tom Orum, Nancy Ferguson

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Introductions- Pearl M. Pearl also facilitated the meeting in the absence of Chris E.
- B. Reading of sojourner reflection Susan T. (see attached with Hermitage report)
- C. Approval of January 20, 2024 minutes- no additions or corrections, unanimous approval

II. BUSINESS AND ADMINISTRATION

- A. Board matters and Outreach: Chris E. continues to work with TNC gathering data related to his proposed water supply status report. He hopes to have something ready by September.

Pearl M. reported that the CCA board met in February to discuss goals and values of the organization and outreach possibilities and that no decisions were reached at that time regarding web management and newsletter. Stay tuned!

- B. Finances:

- 1. Birgit D. presented treasurer's report (see attached) Motion to approve by David O. Second by Tom T. Unanimously approved.

- 2. Pearl M. reported on legal status of the Meader endowment. Attorney Jim Jutry reviewed the relevant documents and concluded that CCA has been correct in treating the Meader Fund as a board designated endowment, not a true endowment fund. It does not meet the criteria for a true endowment and to write up a true endowment would be an expensive proposition. Thus we can continue to use the guidelines that were accepted at the establishment of the fund.

- 3. Birgit D. reported on the purchase of the McGinnis-Verbance land purchase which has been completed. Total cost including closing costs was \$78,238. Purchase was made possible with the help of 3 substantial anonymous donations to designated CCA funds. The next steps include attaching the parcel to hermitage land holdings to maintain tax exemption status and doing a general cleanup of the property. A list of cleanup volunteers was compiled. Barbara C. volunteered hauling help if needed. Future workshop/discussion will be needed to talk about long term planning for the parcel.

- 4. Pearl reported on implementation of a master Google spreadsheet where committee chairs will compile monthly estimates of volunteer hours. Katie suggested that volunteer

hours be added to the agenda of seasonal meetings as a prompt to committee chairs to keep this task on their radar.

C. Baicatcan land committee

1. Erik R. presented information regarding the interim version of the revised/amended life lease agreement with the Wert family. He read a cover letter sent to CCA membership prior to the meeting which outlined the history and impetus for the proposed changes. The nine proposed amendments were reviewed item by item and the discussion focused primarily on clarifying questions regarding lease parcel boundaries, understanding the changes to the non-development area (a map was provided) and vehicular and pedestrian access for both the Wert family (tenants) and CCA, ASW (landlords.) In response to a question about the "survey" indicated in several of the amendments Erik said that it will be completed internally by the parties involved. Sue N. had concerns about her cabin guests having needed access information. Katie suggested "gentle signage" regarding off limits areas. David O. volunteered to lay out a path for views above Sue's parcel. A question was raised about whether an equestrian policy might be needed. The land committee will take this under consideration. Alex asked that if membership approved the amendments could the involved parties have permission to adjust the language for the final version if it would not substantially alter the meaning of the amendment, which was given. Erik noted that the interested parties have hashed out concerns and agreed on the amendments.

Motion by John Welch That CCA membership accept all amendments to the lease
Second: David Omick Motion passed unopposed.

2. Proposal for change to the Use Policy of Baicatcan campground and Mick's Cottage Policy proposals presented by the Baicatcan land committee included that the campground be self service, and that the use of Mick's cottage be opened to seasonal visitors to the valley. Erik pointed out that tracking campers has become unwieldy for those responsible. Susan voiced support for both proposals. Alex voiced support for self-serve campground. Pearl supports campground change with the understanding that specific written guidelines for campground use be developed and posted. Katie inquired about what was meant by a "season" and discussion settled on roughly 3-6 months, with the possibility of reviewing a stay after a particular length of time. Karen expressed concern that long term occupancy would preclude short term visitors. Edith noted that during her Nov-April stay, she vacated for short periods to accommodate other visitors. Sue suggested that if there were no cottage availability for a visitor, she could be contacted about cabin availability.

Katie felt it would be good to have a human presence at Baicatcan, particularly if tended animals are present.

Erik Revere- Motion that proposals be accepted, with the land committee to write guidelines and develop an application for seasonal occupancy.

Second: Katie Talbott Motion passed unanimously

D. Saguaro-Juniper announcements

Katie reported that the "Home On the Range" event was well attended and meaningful.

Those present enjoyed camaraderie and connection. Appreciation was expressed for S-J apprentices Nick Sandberg and Andrew Connelly

III CONSERVATION PROGRAM

- A. Committee Summary Report (see attached)
Pearl reported that SunZia remains top priority. The ruling on the March tribes and ASW federal court hearing is overdue. Stay tuned!
- B. SunZia fundraising (GoFundMe)
Marissa K. continues to maintain the fund

IV GARDEN /ORCHARD PROGRAM

- A. The Goat Group distributed a written proposal making a detailed case for moving goats to the Community Garden, which includes a request to move \$3000 from the Education Fund to jumpstart a fundraising goal of \$1200 (see attached)
There was enthusiasm and lively discussion around this proposal. Pearl said she would be thrilled to have goats in the garden and to shift education funds for this. Tom wants to keep at least some funds in the educational fund. Susan feels this proposal is an excellent use of education funds. Edith said the Goat Group currently has an account but would like CCA to accept donations so they can be tax deductible. Erik raised the question of how to manage the funds and Birgit questioned how to credit funds raised. Karen raised concern about competition for funding among gardeners, goat tenders, and education. Erik noted that the gardeners have already endorsed this proposal and David felt that infrastructure costs could be held in a CCA designated account. The Goat Group would continue its own bookkeeping account for goat care. Inquiry about the timeframe was raised and Andrew V. expressed hope that construction could begin in the fall with completion by the first of the new year.
The Goat Group: Motion to accept the Goats in the Garden proposal, for CCA to establish a goat infrastructure fund, and for \$3000 to be transferred to that fund from the education fund. Second: John Welch Unanimous approval

V HERMITAGE PROGRAM

- A. Susan briefly reviewed the Hermitage Program summary report (see attached)
Karen distributed 2 bookmarks to each meeting attendee to serve as promotional material for the program offerings. More available on request.

VI EVENTS, WORKSHOPS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

Katie announced that the Sour Milk school will be offering a cheesemaking workshop in October- date TBD (this date was subsequently changed to February 2025)

VII NEXT MEETING

SEPTEMBER 14, 2024 at CCC 3-5 pm followed by potluck dinner

