

**Revised Minutes of Ouachita Mountain Hikers Executive Board Meeting
June 8, 2015**

Executive Board members present:

Debbie Van Veghel, Jeannie Eichler, Rick Ericson, Anita Moore, Ralph Butler, Tom Calhoun

Call to Order: 11:10 a.m. at the Hibachi Sushi Buffet restaurant, Hot Springs

Old Business

Debbie began her agenda with old business items:

- The club By Laws, which were recently revised and approved by general membership at its last meeting, are adopted, and all provisions are being observed.
- A period of time has passed since the revised *Waiver of Liability* forms were implemented. A review of the roster indicates that a majority of the members have complied with Board request to sign and submit the new form. The Directors agreed to continue monitoring and encouraging sign-ups, while posting reminders in the Hike Flash, via announcements at social events, and asking hike leaders to insure their hikers are up to date.
- Glenn Wortham was not present to report on the trail building request from Ouachita Children's Home. Ralph volunteered to contact Glenn for an update.

New Business

Two Board positions will come open at the end of the year. Marilyn Hall will complete her tenure as Vice President. Rick Ericson will not accept nomination for a sixth year as Secretary. See discussion below regarding appointment of a nominating committee. It was also acknowledged that Pat Miller would no longer serve as Hike Flash Administrator at the end of her tenure. Tom Calhoun, as Publicity Chair, with purview over the position, stated that he was willing to assimilate the duties.

Fundraising/T-shirt sales – No report

Trail Maintenance Chair

Ralph confirmed that the Board's decision to schedule OT maintenance on Saturdays was to take place during the fall hiking schedule. After discussion, the Directors decided that OT maintenance would be scheduled only on Saturdays in order to determine if the change actually promotes increased attendance.

The above led to a discussion regarding the scheduling of long hikes on Thursdays when an OMH general membership meeting was to be held, and whether the meeting might reasonably be held on another week night. OMH has permission to use the Garland County Library on Thursday nights until November. It was decided that at least for now, no changes would be made to the existing format, and the Hike Chair would ensure that shorter hikes would be scheduled on those Thursdays.

Trail Chair

Anita reported that she is reasonably sure that David Tedrahn will accept appointment as her replacement as OMH Trail Chairperson, but his travel plans won't allow face time until September. She stated that she is ready to provide assistance for the transition. Debbie volunteered to discuss the job requirements with David so he would have a clear understanding of what the position entailed.

The above led to discussion of the publicity-related tasks that are carried out by the Hike Chair. Anita confirmed that she makes the entries in the website hike calendar. Jim Gifford continues to draft the *printable* hike schedule, sending it in .pdf format to Tom Calhoun for posting on the website. She also drafts weekly OMH hike announcements for the *Hot Springs Sentinel-Record* and the *Hot Springs Village Voice*. Each is done in a different format. **It was resolved that the Hike Chair would continue to draft and submit the hike announcements to the newspapers.**

In answer to the question regarding Jim Gifford's continued maintenance of a trail report data base, Anita stated that he still does that, and may do so because of the unique nature of the software he uses. Tom Calhoun noted that it appears to him that Jim only sends him updates to the web site "Trails We Hike" section when there is a new hike, or when there is a meaningful change to the description of an existing hike. It was agreed that it would be beneficial to bring that segment back under the auspice of the Hike Chair.

Publicity Chair

Tom has submitted a job description for the Hike Flash Administrator, but as previously noted, will assimilate those duties next year.

Discussion ensued regarding a recent publication of scheduled OMH activities in the *Hot Springs Village Recreation News*, and another in the *Hot Springs Sentinel-Record*, which provided accurate contact information for the hikes, but failed to state that they were activities sponsored by the Ouachita Mountain Hiking Club. It was the consensus of the Directors that any publication external to the club should clearly state it's an OMH activity. Debbie stated that she would try to establish if there is a particular reason that the published notices failed to identify the club before further action is considered.

Treasurer – Membership

Jeannie reported a current balance in the club checking account of \$3,868.37, to be reduced by the check she just wrote for picnic meat in the amount of \$170. She also reported current membership is now 328.

Secretary – Historian

Rick reported that he spent some time with a Walgreens photo department exploring how old OMH ring-binder photo albums might be converted to thinner (and lighter) digital albums. He stated that while photo-scan quality and price were reasonable, he was disappointed in some of his findings: The albums can only be done in a single style black 9 X 11 cover, hinged on the short side, and limited to a maximum of 30 sheets (60 pages). He stated that some binder albums have more than 40 sheets (80 pages) necessitating two digital albums if replacing the single binder album. Someone from the club would have to do all of the scanning of the 15 albums, including producing a title page for each album, or two title pages for the larger albums. The consensus of the Directors was that this was not a feasible solution to the storage issue.

The above led to discussion of whether it was beneficial to find another media for storage of the content of old ring-binder photo albums. It was suggested that it might be worthwhile converting the albums through the scan process, but putting the images in digital format. The information should then be saved on redundant media to guard against loss and to make it easier to convert the data to new storage media in the future. Rick agreed to work with Tom in further investigating this possibility.

Rick indicated that he would continue to serve in the Historian position in 2016 if asked. However, he voiced his desire to find a replacement now for 2017 that he could begin training during the next year. He stated that the position requires someone who is a good photographer, willing to participate in most of the scheduled hikes and trips, is computer literate enough to set up a photo filing system and do low-level photo shopping, and is willing to learn how to build the digital photo album. The Board agreed that a "Historian Apprentice Wanted" paragraph should be included in a Special Hike Flash addressing the other open positions, and Rick agreed to write the "ad." The Flash would be published in early September.

Debbie reminded the Board that following previous discussion on the subject, the Secretary would be the custodian of Board of Director position descriptions, with the idea that prospective candidates for open positions would be provided a copy of both the job description and current By Laws. Debbie stated she would forward the newly revised Position Descriptions to Rick.

Miscellaneous

Debbie acknowledged that a Nominating Committee will be required to conduct candidate searches for the positions of Vice President and Secretary. The By Laws require that a Board member serve on the committee. Volunteers will be sought.

A review of previously revised Position Descriptions was conducted and resulted in no changes being suggested. Debbie stated she would put the descriptions into final format and forward them to Rick.

Rick stated that he has agreed to update the club history segment of the website from where Jim Gifford left off in 2006. Rick will work with Tom in determining a suitable format. Jim Gifford has already agreed to help where needed. Rick has all of the old photo albums that contain much of the desired information. No deadline was set, but it was noted that a club milestone will present itself in 2016.

It was confirmed that the September OMH general membership meeting will be incorporated into the September Welcome Back Hike and picnic.

Conclusion

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Ericson

Rick Ericson
Secretary/Historian

