

MINUTES

Desert Survivors (DS) 2016 Annual General Meeting Watsonville, CA, October 23, 2016

I. 9:11 am President Deirdre Cerkanowicz called the meeting to order, confirmed with Secretary Norma Wallace the quorum of at least 20 members, there being 22 confirmed members in attendance, and advised the membership of the expected Board absence by At Large member Dave Halligan. It was noted that At Large board member Ron Cohen was not in attendance. Deirdre requested changes to Agenda, including Jerry's offer to present a history of Desert Survivors, and Karen Rusiniak's request for a report on Accomplishments including updates on lawsuits.

II. 9:13 am Managing Director Gerry Goss described and read email correspondence from DS founder Doug Kari to Gerry Goss. The story begins in 1977 and includes a lively description of the 1978 trip that inspired both the organization's existence and its very name, and was received warmly by members present. A request was made that this story be maintained and included in the work-in-progress Operations Manual.

Attachment: Email of 10/16/2016

III. 9:37 am Deirdre thanked Marisa Seaman for coordinating the AGM event, and Jannet Schraer and Dave Blume for hosting at their Whiskey Hill Farms. Deirdre then reported on her initiation as president, primarily of challenges due to not being extremely familiar with the board and the group's operations. She announced that Norma is working on an Operations Manual to help new people get involved. Deirdre sat at the DS table for the (Solano) Stroll, met several members, and noticed the Membership brochures were outdated.

Regarding board participation: Board members can attend physically or remotely, but are expected to attend a majority of meetings, and to have a project. DS needs more technical help with the website and emails, plus help with outreach and inviting people to join.

IV. 9:36 am Secretary Norma Wallace advised that the draft AGM 2015 Minutes had been distributed to the DS board soon after the 2015 meeting, and had been posted on the DS website. Gerry moved to accept the minutes as posted; Mike Wells seconded the motion; approval unanimous. Norma then presented a special project she had previously shared with the board, a draft Operations Manual. With the manual, the goal is to assist DS members figure out how to get involved: where there are needs, what those needs are, details of the storage unit (access, inventory) and job descriptions for all board posts and key volunteer activities. The manual is a work-in-progress and Norma welcomes input and suggestions. Norma mentioned the Secretary position is a great board opportunity for a volunteer who wants to help at the board level but may not have specific scientific or trip leader skills.

V. 9:43 am Managing Director Gerry Goss announced that financials for the past year and budget for coming year had been made available to members before the meeting and gave a brief summary. The biggest expense by far is Insurance and publishing *The Survivor*. Gerry announced his position is Open, and his goal is to be off the DS board this year, for the first time in decades. He is willing to maintain the financial reporting. Part of the position is timely filing of State, Federal and sales tax.

Gerry spoke about current issues and two standing lawsuits:

WEMO - Western Mojave. BLM protections are required; however BLM requested a 3-year extension on their action. If the extension is agreed to, Gerry explained that BLM should be made to explain and provide interim protections on OHV routes.

BLM-F&G delisted the Bi-State Sage Grouse. DS is the lead group in the lawsuit with the Center for Biological Diversity and others. DS is present in California (incorporated here, office here), so DS can prove relevant standing, which is important when the location of the lawsuit is being determined. DS had to prove being active,

local and involved with studying the sage grouse. This was shown and therefore the agreement was won to stay in California's (environmentally friendly) jurisdiction.

To a question about a film trailer DS has donated money to funding, Gerry said the production team is still raising money for the planned full-length feature. Gerry can put members in touch with this group if we know possible donors who should see the trailer.(The trailer is not generally available.)

VI. 9:55 am Activities Director Bob Lyon provided updates: Chuck McGinn has retired as Trip Leader after many years and many trips, specializing in trips emphasizing petroglyphs. Fortunately archeologist Barb Bane has this knowledge and interest; look for petroglyph-related trips from Barb going forward. Bob mentioned the Activities Director position is open. Responsibilities include: encourage trip leaders to submit trips, assemble trips for the Trip Schedule, and coordinate with volunteer David Raich who puts the actual schedule together. The schedule is posted online and distributed via Constant Contact emails as well as snail mail. At the 2015 AGM, member Stacy Goss had requested DS include on Trip Schedule the Sierra Club Desert Committee meetings. This was done, and more than 20 Desert Survivors attended the February meeting in Shoshone, CA.

VII. 10am Communications Director Nick Blake observed the responsibilities for this position are time-intensive, and would like a reliable person to help with the website. Nick tries to change the website monthly, and posts the trip schedule. He has started sending a Constant Contact email ahead of each trip. Most helpful from members would be providing articles for *The Survivor*. Nick has criteria to share. There was group discussion of possible solutions, including a technical team.

VIII. 10:17am Volunteer Director Martina Konietzny said she joined in 2009, and cajoles people to join DS. She thanked everyone for their donations. Martina described her duties, as she needs to resign for family responsibilities. There is tabling twice a year at outdoor functions, such as Berkeley Bay Fair and Solano Stroll. For each event, an application needs to be completed, and a trip to the storage unit. Her house has been used for board meeting. Shirley (no last name) now picks up the mail. Martina's house can be a backup location for parties.

IX. At-Large:

10:27am Kevin Pope, responsible for Membership, said: (a) He has cleaned up the membership list of 420 so now all have correct data. Given 420 members at \$30 yields \$12,000 dues, an additional \$8,000 is donated by members. DS membership by state: CA/344, NV/14, AZ/10; CO/3, NM/3, OR/7 and others. (b) April 1st is the annual membership drive. (c) He works with Jerry to coordinate memberships from PayPal. (d) a big portion of the membership is "cheering on" the group, and not taking trips. Kevin sends out Constant Contact emails where Nick prepares the content; this is fairly turnkey to send out. Metrics are very high with a 50-60% "open rate." In the last 12 months, 28 emails were sent out, which seems not too many but enough to keep members informed. Special emails go out for the AGM, special events and Trip Schedules.

10:34am Charlene Daniels worked to create/update a Public Presentation on DS to use in outreach events. Once the presentation was finalized, she coordinated an outreach event at a local REI store. Four new members joined as a result. Members can customize this presentation by inserting their own slides. Charlene will make the presentation available on flash drives.

10:35am Marisa Seaman reported on her efforts coordinating this AGM 2016, welcoming members Shirley, Juanita and Tito to their first AGM, and member Jannet, our hostess for the event. Marisa has reserved Arroyo Seco for 10/13-15, 2017, which is south of King City. Based on a recent discussion of So-Cal members, Barb Bane observed that Nor-Cal based members must drive 10 hours to participate in desert hikes; for So-Cal based members to drive 6 hours to participate in the AGM seems reasonable. At Large Director Ron Cohen was not in attendance and did not provide a report.

X. 10:42am Old Business. Deirdre reported that Geoglyph, created by member Peter Ruddick, has replaced DSOL. She thanked members Jannet and Marisa for their work on this AGM and requested help from everyone in cleaning up. A member suggested adding a “playbill-type page” to *The Survivor* to acknowledge donors, and Lexine offered to assist. There was a request by Barb Bane for additional banners for use outside the Bay Area.

XI. 10:47 am Deirdre began the Election of 2016-2017 Board Members with a brief explanation of the process. She then started by requesting nominations, which were provided as follows. None of the positions were contested. All votes were unanimous in favor of the nominee.

For President, Deirdre, nominated by Martina, seconded by Marisa. Accepted.

For Managing Director, Gerry, nominated by Nick and seconded by Stacy Goss. Declined.

For Managing Director, Norma, nominated by Gerry and seconded by Bob. Accepted.

For Secretary, Juanita, nominated by Norma and seconded by Stacy. Accepted.

For Activities Director, Bob, nominated by Barb, seconded by Gerry. Declined

For Activities Director, Marisa, nominated by Bob, seconded by Stacy. Accepted.

For Communications Director, Nick, nominated by Gerry, seconded by Kevin. Accepted.

For Volunteers Director, Charlene, nominated by Bob, seconded by Martina. Accepted.

For up to six **At Large Directorships:**

Barb Bane, nominated by Jannet, seconded by Martina. Accepted.

Bob Lyon, nominated by Nick, seconded by Charlene.

Kevin Pope, nominated by Chuck, seconded by Martina. Accepted.

Stacy Goss, nominated by Gerry, seconded by Norma. Declined.

Lexine Alpert, nominated by Marisa, seconded by Martina. Accepted.

Jannet Schraer, nominated by Lexine, seconded by Martina. Accepted.

Darrel Hunger, nominated by Marisa, seconded by Martina. Accepted.

Deirdre introduced the new Board to the membership and announced a brief board meeting immediately following the AGM. Norma asked the At Large directors to share what they were going to be working on in the coming year. Responses follow:

Kevin: membership tracking

Darrel - graphics for the presentation; help with outreach; assistance

Jannet - discrete tasks and editing

Barb - help with non-technical tasks, editing. She is So-Cal based.

Lexine - a professional photojournalist can help with publicity

XII. New Business: AGM 2017 coordination – by Marisa Seaman. Deirdre thanked Dave McMullen and Norma for clearing out the storage unit of outdated and moldy items.

XIII. Deirdre requested a Motion to Adjourn. Charlene moved and Nick seconded; those present unanimously consented and the meeting closed at 11:40am.

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