

Desert Survivors Board Meeting Minutes

August 11, 2016

Location
6466 Vallejo Street, Emeryville

Attending: Deirde Cerkanowicz, Norma Wallace, Marisa Seaman, Martina Konietzny. Calling in: Nick Blake, Bob Lyon, Jerry Goss

I President's Report - Deirdre Cerkanowicz

A. At 6:34 pm Deirdre greets attendees Marisa, Martina and Norma, confirms remote participants Nick, Bob and Jerry, and establishes a quorum, noting Charlene, Ron, and Kevin are absent with notice.

B. Deirdre requests changes to the agenda; none were provided.

C. Following up from last meeting, Deirdre says her Retreat notes remain on her iPad. She requested Nick resend the DS logo graphic for the Business Card project, and there was a brief discussion as to quantity to order: 1,000 cards would provide 100 cards approx for each board member, which seems reasonable as a marketing tool.

D. Deirdre requests details on the membership join/renewal process related to PayPal. Nick explains he does send out confirmations based on PayPal reports; Jerry obtains renewal information off PayPal reports. Nick handles adding new members to our Constant Contact distribution list.

E. Regarding communications, Deirdre and Nick discuss straightening out [@desert-survivors.org](mailto:info@desert-survivors.org) board addresses. Deirdre inquires about the possibility of creating a generic email address alternative to president@ such as info@, general@, ds@ (or other). In brief, yes, although thought should be given to setting up a generic address rather than a name-specific address for any task or project.

II Secretary Report - Norma Wallace

A. At 6:48 pm Norma requests any additional corrections or additions to the draft minutes from the June board meeting, previously distributed via email. Nick provides a correction and addition.

Marisa moves to accept the minutes as corrected. Jerry seconds. Unanimous approval.

B. Norma shares that she continues to update the DS Operations Manual; thanks Jerry for forwarding the Managing Director detailed description; and, thanks Deirdre for the Social Media Maven. She requests from all other board members descriptions of their

respective board roles to include as Exhibits, and requests this by October 1. Norma will bring the updated draft to the AGM for review, input and discussion by members.

III Managing Director Report - Jerry Goss

A. Jerry presented the financial report for the year, with comments: there were no additional major expenses this year; and, the bigger expenses come in about the same time as the renewal drive.

B. Martina is asked to hand off cash to Jerry outside the board meeting. The cash includes monies collected at the December 2015 holiday party (a question from a recent meeting).

C. Pending item followup: volunteer for mail pickup process. Jerry describes the task of the volunteer who had been helping him by picking up the mail from USPS (4192 Piedmont Avenue, Oakland), place in manila envelop and mail to Jerry. He will pick up the rest of the tasks. Having the mail picked up every other week would be fine; weekly before the AGM. A suggestion is made to announce the opportunity at the AGM. Jerry hands off USPS key to Marisa; they will discuss details outside the meeting. Marisa may follow up with Jerry

IV Activity Director Report - Robert Lyon

A. At the Sierra Club Desert Committee meeting, the group discussed several issues including no action from state to protect Salton Sea; status fires in BLM areas - trying to eliminate cheat grass mostly with herbicides. Are there any issues from DS to bring to the Desert Committee?

B. DS member now retired ranger Brigitta Jansen is volunteer coordinator for Death Valley. updates (continues to volunteer there, this summer, hottest months on record). Bob obtained a list of projects needing volunteers there.

C. There are some interesting trips for the new schedule, including the AGM and the Holiday party. Dec 3 is discussed as a good date.

D. Social - Holiday event. Deirdre mentions Martina has the name of a member in Berkeley Hills who has offered to host. Can Martina contact that person?

E. Waivers are signed off every trip; no file is kept.

F. The Wilderness First Aid certificate needs to be updated every three years.

G. Jerry confirms with Bob that Bobby Foster sent out a new schedule.

V Volunteer Director Report - Martina Konietzny

A. At 7:20 pm Martina discusses offering her house for any party. She can hand off monies to Jerry.

B. For the Solano Stroll, she has obtained volunteers for Elena Golgoleva and Neal Cassidy.

C. Martina says Nick cleaned up the storage unit. Nick says he has not been back since, and the condition is okay.

D. Deirdre has followed up several times with the Center for Biological Diversity to obtain themed Horny toad educational condoms “save the earth” as the concept, with no response (the goal was to distribute at the Solano Stroll, etc.).

VI Communications Director Report - Nick Blake

A. At 7:26 pm Nick begins his report with an update on *The Survivor*: Nick has some good submissions for the upcoming issue so far, and is waiting for more. DS does not have a record of email addresses for a substantial number of members. Nick has started to send out Constant Contacts for every trip.

B. Nick is trying to problem-solve the secretary@desert-survivors.org email issue.

C. Deirdre inquires about a description for the requested volunteer to help Nick with updating the website. Specifically, it would help in recruiting to know: what is needed, how often is it needed, and the amount of time involved. Deirdre will forward the Social Media Maven writeup to Nick as an example / reminder.

D. Deirdre explains that the Bylaws state *The Survivor* is quarterly publication. Discussion ensued regarding substitute language in the bylaws, and whether to offer the subject for discussion by members at the AGM, or whether the board come with a recommendation to the AGM. After a brief discussion, a consensus developed for Nick, Deirdre and Norma to come up with a proposed language to present to members at the AGM. Several board members requested not to get too specific with the new language regarding commitments.

VII At Large Director Reports

A. Kevin’s membership update starts at 7:36 pm, reminding the board he had previously emailed the member report to all board members; the report will be attached to these minutes.

Regarding the “Henry issue,” to reprise: a letter was composed by Nick, was sent to Henry, and has not been returned; nothing further has been heard from Henry, he has not renewed, and neither has (partner) Betty. Both names have been removed DS from mailing lists. He cannot rejoin. Nick will forward to Norma the covering email and letter to add to these minutes.

Motion by Jerry Goss: If Henry attempts to rejoin DS, we send a letter returning the dues and denying his membership request. Norma seconds. Vote: Ayes-5, 2-abstain. Passed.

B. Marisa reports that Jerry sent Marisa information on the satellite phone account. Current charges are \$480 + voicemail at \$60, plus tax gets to a total of \$576. As of 2017, there is an additional \$60 per year “network improvement fee.” Jerry suggests taking a rental approach to obtaining the service. Marisa will look into that.

AGM 10/21-23. Marisa reports, "As I had been away for the entire summer, I had not yet looked into any activities or speakers. I plan on going to Arroyo Seco prior to our retreat to check out the details. I'm curious if the facility provides electricity and if not, what our other options are for hosting a slide show and /or guest speakers. Martina was going to talk to one potential speaker. She plans to inform the board of all the details.

VIII Additional item.

Deirdre confirms the next board meeting takes place at the AGM, immediately following the meeting and election and installation of new board. There is no dial-in option for this meeting as service is unlikely at the remote AGM location

IX Adjourns 8:10 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Norma Wallace
DS Secretary
August 12, 2016