

Tennessee Park Rangers' Association
Board Meeting
08/20/13
10:00 AM Cumberland Mountain State Park

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call and Attendance

Board Members Present:

Andy Wright
Bridget Lofgren
Rachel Lee
Keith Wimberly
Justin King
Walter Pope
Jeff Nicholson
Ray Cutcher
Monica Johnson

Members Present:

Erin Medley
Chris Padgett
Mark Houston
Nathaniel Garrison
Jason Miller
Bob Fulcher
Monique Hodge
Micheal Hodge
Guest: Del Truitt

III. Update from Mike Robertson/Chris Padgett

- A. Retirement – TCRS rejected retirement amendment being added into next years budget.
1. Department could take a non-stance and we could go forward with legislation and lobbyist. Need to know direction and stance from Commissioner, if its neutral then pursue with Senate.
 2. Upon moving forward work with Ryan Jenkins and his contact in Senate. Gain support in the House.
 3. Chris Padgett said he would check to determines Departmental view.
 4. Next steps: Meet with Ken Jager, organize a list of each legislator in every district and send TPRA members to approach about the amendment.
- B. Housing Update
1. Commissioner received pressure from F & A to “clean up” housing issues in parks. With the previous policy there was the possible misappropriation of state funds.
 2. The retirement credit was not working correctly.
 3. Thoughts that changing the policy and salaries could help with recruitment.
 4. On Call policy is still being written, no current distance requirement for response.
 5. Is there a possible backlash on our commission status if we are no longer required as first responders?
 6. Lack of documentation on after hours incidents, report everything.
 7. How will empty houses be handled?
 8. F & A Policy stated that rent would be \$0.20/sq foot plus utilities. Because of lack of individual meters decided on \$0.25/sq foot utilities included.

9. The introduction was delayed because partial funding came from Mercer Study.
10. Mike Robertson sent word that decommissioning rangers has not been discussed.

IV. Special Guest – Dale Truitt with Bob Fulcher – BRAT and CTC

- A. Mr. Truitt, former Director of Parks, and current President of Friends of the Cumberland Trail State Park, wanted to suggest that funding currently coming to the CTC from the BRAT be relayed to the Friends Group instead.
 1. Friends Group has a paid accountant to keep books, and offers more transparency with funds. Friends of CTSP and CTSP have a trailhead nursery, music recording, cultural history prominence, involved in Every Child Outdoors Coalition, have funded an additional maintenance position, co-sponsored festivals that promote cultural and natural agendas.
 2. Asking to move BRAT monies that are currently transferred to the CTC to the Friends group instead.
 - a. Do we need an MOU, and checks and balances?
 - b. TPRA is basically just a funnel for these funds and the amount given was a 5 year average from when the CTC solely ran BRAT.
 - c. Look into agreement and wording for future.
 - d. Ryan's place to check with Department about forwarding the funds to the Friends rather than CTC.
 3. Ray Cutcher made a motion to pursue that funds go to the Friends of CTSP. Walter Pope seconded. All were in favor with Andy Wright abstaining from vote.

V. Minutes

- A. Ray Cutcher motioned minutes be approved and Monica Johnson seconded.

VI. Treasurer Report

- A. See attached statement.
 1. Scholarship Fund- Miller Class-Crockett
 2. Plaque for Edna
 3. Savage Gulf- Friends of SCSP get 20%
 4. Use scholarship fund for additional training opportunities or equipment.
 5. Treasurer Report was approved.

VII. Old Business

1. Scholarship –voting on Leadership School after meeting.
2. Events
 - a. New race at NTSP- Half/10K/5K – last Saturday in October 2014
 - b. Byrd Creek in May
 - c. Savage Gulf – have Robin Wooten meet with Cristof to help plan event.

- d. Membership
 - i. Smoky Mountain Give Away – Ronnie Douglas had secured.
 - Dale Truitt picked a number between 1-119 (members excluding board). #79 – Sarah Nicely. Called her and send e-mail.
 - e. Webpage – Bill- Visitation down, but likes the updates in the Ranger Station.

VIII. New Business:

- A. CPA-Bookkeeper- to establish fiscal policy and maintain accounts.
 - 1. 1099 Contract, and have more information available for next meeting.
- B. International Ranger Federation
 - 1. Should we join? Membership is based on our members
 - 2. Tabled til next meeting, Andy will have benefits and cost.
- C. Dale Truitt added that on the Housing issue, that it's not a good thing for a ranger to reach retirement age and not have some equity.

IX. Adjournment

- A. Andy Wright adjourned the meeting. Next meeting November 19, 10 AM at Montgomery Bell State Park.