

Friends of the Dunes Board Meeting
Tuesday, April 7, 2009, 7-9 pm
At the Humboldt Coastal Nature Center, 220 Stamps Lane

Board Members: Bill Weaver, John St. Marie, David Weinstein, Marj Fay, Mike Seeber, Nancy Ihara, Michelle Forys, Mike Wilson, Jennifer Renzullo, Tamara Gedik, Allison Poklemba

Staff: Carol Vander Meer, Emily Walter

Public: Uri Driscoll, Kary Schlick

I. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS PRESENT

Uri Driscoll – equestrian advocate

Kary Schlick – Manila resident and equestrian use advocate

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

John St. Marie motioned for approval of March, 2009 minutes, 2nd from Mike Seeber, all present were in favor. Minutes from April, 2009 were approved.

III. PUBLIC INPUT

- Emily mentioned new Volunteer Sign-in sheet at the Humboldt Coastal Nature Center.
- Uri wants to know what concerns the board has with horses on the dunes. He is concerned about preserving equestrian access on the dunes. He wants to know why there are “no horse” signs up on a trail?
- Board and staff shared that the “no horse” signs were part of an interim use policy for the main trail. FOD is developing a trails planning process to better analyze potential impacts from a variety of users. The signs were an interim measure pending the completion of a trails planning process.
- Kary stated that she feels like she is not getting answers but getting the run around.
- Uri says that there have been no stated conflicts between horses and people on these trails and would like to know why even in the interim that a trail is being closed off.
- Kary would like to know what does it mean if horses ignore the no trail signs. Mike Wilson answers that it is disrespecting the land owners and their ability to manage their property. Kary expressed concern about neighbors being prohibited from using trails and areas they have used for a long time. There was some concern that these interim signs may be permanent.
- Uri states studies show horses don't bring in noxious weeds or cause more impact to dunes than humans. Nancy asks Uri to submit the studies he mentions to help with the planning.
- Bill encourages Uri and Kary to continue to be part of the planning process. The interim management will continue until the plan is complete.

After Uri and Kary left the meeting, the board continued to discuss the issue:

- Jennifer suggests putting up trails signs explaining that these are interim policies.
- Mike Wilson would like the board to direct staff to adjust messaging for interim use.

Nancy motions to send a formal letter to Uri and Kary explaining constraints of other users, to remind them that these are interim measures and give a timeline of the planning process. Also to be in the letter is that the board has directed staff to alter the current signing to show interim management on the main trail. Second from Matt Johnson with all in favor, motion passed.

IV. CHECK SIGING LIST UPDATE

Michelle motions to remove Tony LaBanca and Larry Oetker as check signers, to be replaced with Bill Weaver and John St. Marie. Second from Nancy with all in favor, motion passed.

V. FOLLOW-UP ON MARCH ACTION ITEMS

- Carol will purchase a CD
Carol purchased a 10K CD for one year and a 10K CD for 6 months at Coast Central Credit Union.

VI. WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS TO THEIR FIRST OFFICIAL MEETING

Introductions of all board members and staff along with new board members Alison and Jennifer.

VII. TRAILS PLANNING

FOD does not currently have funding for trail planning but Carol hopes we can keep moving forward. FOD can get funding for signs from the Coastal Conservancy but not for planning. Carol proposes allocating \$1500 (~75 hours of staff time) to trail planning.

Mike Wilson motions that FOD use \$1500 from the Capital Campaign development funds for the trail planning process. Second from Nancy with all in favor, motion passed.

ACTION ITEM: Carol will contact Don Beers about trail grant funding and how much time he is willing to donate.

ACTION ITEM: Carol will send E-Newsletter with information about the trail planning process.

Looking at planning process Timeline

- Mike Wilson suggests posting the next public comment meeting on the trail signs.
- Any trail use related reports received will be posted in the online board room.
- Tamara suggests getting a facilitator for the April 15th public comment meeting.

Changes to proposed timeline

Item 4 – June board meeting

Item 5/6 – FALL

Item 7 – end of the year

Mike Wilson motions to approve the trail planning timeline with the changes to items 4-7 as noted above. Second from Nancy with all in favor, motion passed.

VIII. HCNC PROJECT UPDATE

- We need enthusiastic house party hosts who will invite their friends
- Still working on construction timeline in order to really push fundraising
- WCB Agenda in May to vote on granting up to \$120K for HCNC project and in August there will be an additional \$150 K requested
- Cost estimates still in the works for construction.

- FOD has signed grant agreement with Coastal Conservancy
- One idea to get the construction under way is to solicit loans from community members until FOD could pay them back with Bond money
- August is the earliest construction will take place
- Sand Sculpture Festival – still working on getting sponsors

VIV. UPCOMING EVENTS

Godwit Days-April 17-19

HCNC Community Sharing Session- April 15- 6pm

Wildflower Show-May 1st-3rd

Sand Sculpture Festival- June 14

X. UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS

- Trail Use planning
- HCNC Project Update

-Adjourn ~9:07pm