

Arkansas Trails Council
Pinnacle Mountain State Park
3rd Quarterly Meeting - July 10, 2010

Barbara Penney	Sharon Holman	Loretta Melancon
Butch Penney	Linda Norton	Tom Ledbetter
John Gangluff	Mary Finch	
Nate Arthur	Jerry Strickland	
Tina Taylor	Barbara Strickland	
Noah Grady	Joe Gomez	
Suzanne Hicks	Robert Maher	
Heather Larkin	Bert Turner	
Tina Boyd	Jim Gifford	

Chair Loretta Melancon called the meeting to order at 10:00. Executive Secretary, John Beneke was absent and Barbara Penney volunteered to take the minutes.

Chair Melancon asked if everyone had read the minutes. Butch Penney made a motion to accept the minutes as presented with a second from Nate Arthur. A voice vote carried the motion.

An attendance list was circulated with spaces for names, user groups, address, phone and meeting dates. As a member must have attended two meetings in each year in order to be eligible to vote, this list is to facilitate an easy way to keep the record of attendance. The list will show a two year record of attendance. Each attendee introduced himself and noted his organization.

Vice Chair Courtney Todd arrived.

The Professional of the Year Award was presented to Tom Ledbetter by Jim Gifford.

Arkansas Trails Day report was given by Jim Gifford. High temperatures, low attendance and good media coverage were the main points. The need to attract more attendance was mentioned. Dion (sorry don't know last name) presented a short report on the Trails Day activities in NW Arkansas. 67 people attended "David's Trail".

Bert Turner initiated a thorough discussion of Trails Day. Bert suggest that it would be a good idea to change the time of year to late March or early April and to change

the location to Burns Park. This was met with enthusiasm by all the attendees. Bert will check on the availability of Burns Park and will get the ball rolling in other areas before he leaves the country for China. Trudy Kincaid, Barbara Penney and Nate Arthur have volunteered to be Indians - we're still looking for the Chief.

Chair Melancon told about the Recreational Trails Program which is at risk of losing grant money. She gave a run down on the amounts of money available and the 38 areas in Arkansas that have applied for the money. The funding total is \$1,500,000.00 and the applicants have asked for \$3,200,000.00. It was noted that the motorized community doesn't use their allotment every year and the unused portion must be returned. Chair Melancon told of a point system that was used to determine the grant winners. There was confusion on the part of the attendees as to how the point system was developed and applied.

Everyone was asked to write a letter of support of legislation to keep the funding to their U.S. Senator. (in care of:). Another advocate organization that could be contacted and that individual clubs might join is:

Coalition for Recreational Trails
1225 New York Avenue NW Suite 450
Washington, D.C. 20005

<http://www.funoutdoors.com/coalitions/crt>

Jim Gifford was asked to report on his absentee voting update. After a brief discussion, Butch Penney made a motion to shelve any consideration of absentee voting with Jim Gifford seconding. After discussion, a voice vote was taken and the motion was passed.

Bert Turner told of an Arkansas Trails System report that would compile a list of all trails in the State and include information about each trail with links to other information. Bert will compile any information sent to him and place it on the website. Please include difficulty, type of terrain, special needs, etc.

The next meeting in October will be the election for Chair and Vice Chair. Loretta Melancon wishes to step down for her position. Nominations may be emailed to John Beneke and will also be taken from the floor at the time of the meeting which will be October 7th, at 10:00 at Pinnacle Mountain Visitor Center.