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**WES COMMUNITY**

*An independent non-profit dedicated to supporting outdoor education at Whiskeytown Environmental School*

**Meeting Notes  
WES Community Board  
Monday, August 23rd 2021, 6:00 to 7:30pm  
Via Zoom Web-conference**

Present: Kathy Hill, Ellen Petrick, Laura Shaskey , Nathan Fairchild, Cassie Simons, Francesca Huntsman, Tammy Reynolds, Gordon Flynn, Josh Hoines, Aura Wienstien, Lori Martin, Eva Hecht

Not Present: Melinda Kashuba (Quorum Present), Tyler Compton

**Discussion**

**Action Items**

Call to order/Make Introductions	Meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm Introductions to Aura Weinstein
Approve Minutes/Agenda additions and changes	July 2021 Minutes reviewed. No new change needed. Kathy motioned to approve, Cassie seconded. Motion passed.
WNRA Report: Laura Shaskey	<p>The summer program is winding down, smoke has impacted visitor numbers.. WES (NEED Camp) Site Update--NPS is cleaning the dining hall, kitchen area, and naturalist and health room areas. They need to have items removed from rooms by WES staff or WESC volunteers. Recommended having a clean-up day to save any materials that may be of value to the operations of the program.</p> <p>NPS will be adding electricity and water soon! Adding water will open up bathrooms for the fall field lab programs.</p> <p>The BOR proposed lower lake levels are most likely not happening this fall, although the issue has not been completely voted on yet.</p>
SCOE Update: Nathan Fairchild	The WES program officially opened for field trips for K-6th a few days ago! WES hired three high quality people to serve as field instructors for the program and they are very excited to start the season. Staff training for these programs is on Sept. 1st and 2nd. The WES staff will be doing 1st aid training on Sept. 14th. Nathan said that anyone who is interested in attending the training can email him to sign up.

**Board of Directors**

Kathy Hill Melinda Kashuba, PhD  
Francesca Huntsman Cassandra Simons

**WES Liaisons -**

**SCOE Liaison** – Nathan Fairchild **WNRA Liaison** – Tyler Compton  
**Special Projects** - David Huscher

	<p>Nate requested volunteer help to help build a trail to "squishy beach"; the trail is currently completely covered in brush and unwalkable. Contact Nathan if you'd like to help with trail building.</p> <p>The Naturalist room is the only room needed for program operation. The teachers' lounge will be gutted and cleaned by NPS. If anyone enters these areas to clean as a worker or volunteer, the use of PPE for potential Hantavirus is required.</p>
<p>Friends of Whiskeytown: Tammy Reynold</p>	<p>The FOW Web site is going live at the end of the week.</p> <p>Oct. 2nd. Block Party at Woody's Brewery, 6-10 pm. They are officially releasing the Brandy Creek Blonde Ale. It will be the first event run by FOW for a long while. Volunteers are needed for the block party, email Tammy if interested in volunteering for this event. Go to the new website and use the email: <a href="mailto:info@friendsofwhiskeytown.com">info@friendsofwhiskeytown.com</a></p> <p>They are partnering with WESCommunity for giving Tuesday ideas.</p>
<p>Treasurer's Report</p>	<p><b><u>7/26 Board Meeting bank balance: \$26,733.28</u></b>  <u>Expenditure (Total Out):</u> \$2,580.00  -\$80.00 Big Valley Sanitation  -\$2,500.00 Go Forth Consulting  <u>Revenue (Total In):</u> \$5.37  +\$5.37 square activity website development/test  (+ \$2,000.00 Donation for student assistance, not yet deposited)</p> <p><b>8/23 Board meeting bank balance: \$24,158.65</b>  (Total Available Funds: \$24,158.65)  Rebuild Account: \$7,278.47</p>
<p><b>On-going Business</b></p>	
<p>NPS Partnership Agreement and Work Plan</p>	<p>THE NPS partnership agreement with WES Community is officially completed.</p>
<p>Capital Campaign Feasibility Study: Go Forth Consulting</p>	<p>58 completed Interviews. Go Fourth Consulting is polling data together and putting out surveys to over 400 people. So far, only 15 bounced back, which is a very low bounce back rate. On September 1st the Redding Chamber of Commerce will be sending out the email surveys to a select group of affiliates.</p> <p>The original goal was to have 150 emails, and we are almost at that number already. The response rate is high compared to other email surveys.</p> <p>Moving forward, it is recommended that having vision, passion, and urgency is a good recipe for fundraising.</p>

Little Green Light: Francesca Huntsman	Little Green Light will be used for tracking communication to potential funders. Francesca entered information from Giving Tuesdays for the previous 4 years into the database.
CREEC Grant	Through CREEC, Nathan designed an environmental education course for teachers which involves collaboration from local educators from various agencies and organizations. The first two days were very successful, had around 10 facilitators, and around 40 participants. It was a tremendous amount of work and has gone very well. Participants have reported a very high level of satisfaction in the feedback surveys so far.  Teachers can still sign up and be added to the program until October.
WES Community: Website redesign	The WES Community web site is finished and will go live Friday. Francesca encouraged everyone to review one last time for grammar, organization, and facts.  <a href="https://wescommunity.dream.press">https://wescommunity.dream.press</a>
WES Tours	The Wintu Audubon board is scheduled for a tour on Sept. 20th (6 people).
Giving Tuesday	Peer to peer fundraising is the focus this year. Kathy would like to create events prior to Giving Tuesday to generate interest and attract potential fundraisers. Social media designs need to be completed between now and November between FOW and WES Comm.
<b>New Business</b>	
Make A Difference Day	WES Comm will host a booth on Aug. 28 <sup>th</sup> ; this weekend. We have a tent, chairs, sign up sheet. Aura will bring tables to use. (Nathan has tables in the planetarium that can be used as well). Set up at 8 am - looking for volunteers from 3 categories - helping set up tours of WES, web design, bookkeeper, possible RAC Forest Service Grant, peer to peer fundraiser on Giving Tuesday.
Lori Martin	RAC- Forest Service grant proposals, for rural schools. Proposals until the end of September.  <a href="https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/pts/specialprojects">https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/pts/specialprojects</a>

Kathy Hill	Local musicians are interested in possibly doing a fundraiser on Whiskeytown. Sept.27th is the pilot music event at the lake.
Reminder	
Mon. Oct 25	Annual Board Meeting & officer elections
Meeting Adjourned	Adjourned at 7:30pm
note taker	Cassie Simons

Next meeting 6:00pm Sept, 27th, 2021 via zoom