

Minutes

ARTA Board of Directors Meeting

February 20, 2025

Preliminary Matters

The meeting was convened as a hybrid meeting.

This was noted as the first Board of Directors meeting as its own 501(c)3.

This meeting was recorded with Microsoft Teams.

Board Action

- 1) **Confirmation of the initial Board of Directors** - The trustees listed in the articles of incorporation elected the board, consisting of everyone who was on the steering committee: Steve, Tyler, Jane, John, Greg, Emily, and Karin. Vote was unanimous.
- 2) **Election of officers** - Steve was voted as Chair of the Board, Greg as Vice Chair, Tyler as Treasurer, and Emily as Secretary. Vote was unanimous.
- 3) **Adoption of Trailforks as the official trail maintenance platform** -
 - a. Karin will train docents on how to report trail issues using Trailforks at the April docent meeting
 - b. As an alternative to Trailforks, an email box rx@arnoldrimtrail.org has been created for receiving trail condition reports. Karin will monitor this email and track repairs and resolution of issues.

New Business

- 1) **Treasurer's Report and Banking** –
 - a. **Tyler will set up a bank account with El Dorado Savings.**
 - b. **Tyler will look into insurance options for the Board.**
 - c. The treasurer reported that:
 - i. As of January 31st, the treasury had a balance of \$30,484.95.
 - ii. The treasury gained \$900 in January, including \$77 from Iron Rangers, \$15 from the website, and \$800 in other donations, minus \$63 in FoCuS fees.
 - iii. Tyler will establish a PayPal account to facilitate receipts from Trailforks' Trail Karma
- 2) **Appreciation to FoCuS** - A hearty thanks was given to FoCuS for seventeen years of dedicated service. Lisa Davidson was recognized for her work as bookkeeper. **Jane offered to create a certificate of appreciation for FoCuS, Lisa Davidson, the entire FoCuS Board.**

3) Forest Service Update and Trails Planning

- a. Evan provided an update on staffing issues with the Forest Service
- b. Evan provided an update on the Forest Service's forest-wide trails planning effort, which is narrowing in scope and shortening the timeline
 - i. The Forest Service is in the scoping phase of an environmental review.
 - 1. Focus on trails already on the ground, both system and non-system
 - 2. The goal is to address non-system trails by either including them in the system or decommissioning them
 - 3. The entire system will be evaluated for e-bike usage.
 - 4. Trails that pose a significant safety hazard or environmental risk will be prioritized for rerouting. An example is the decades old non-system trail from the trail to SA Falls overlook down to SA Creek.
 - 5. Discussion of ARTA management of Interface trails including ARTA participation in management of all Interface trails as a possible guiding principle.
 - 6. Looking at Partnership Agreement, Greg's comment was that this should be investigated on what it entails and means to ARTA.
 - 7. Steve expressed his strong long-standing desire to see the 0.6 mile section of trail completed in San Domingo Canyon that would complete an incredible loop trail completely contained within SD Canyon
 - ii. The Forest Service is aiming to complete the environmental review within six months.
- c. OV Restoration Grant - Keith and Evan are working on an OV restoration grant, which includes locations in the Arnold Rim Trail area, primarily along Sheep Ranch Road at the Avery Vista. The focus is on blocking off undesired vehicle access. There may be opportunities for volunteer days to help with seeding or scattering woody debris.
- d. Forest Core Crew - The Forest Service is applying for a Forest Core crew for June, July, and August. The cost to the district would be housing, estimated at \$8 per person per day. There may be an opportunity for ARTA to contribute to housing costs in exchange for the crew working on ARTA projects. The crew could potentially be shared with Bear Valley Trail Stewardship.
(Update: Evan reported the following day that any consideration of hiring the Forest Core Crew is being deferred until the Fall of 2025, decision by Acting District Ranger.)

4) Strategic Planning Committee Update - Rob provided an update on the Strategic Plan, Master Plan, and MTB Fast Track Environmental Review.

- a. Rob presented a draft of the Strategic Plan which memorializes the intent of the Arnold Rim Trail Association for the next several years. The four campaigns identified are organizational effectiveness, trail maintenance and management, community engagement, and funding. The Board will look at the strategic plan and provide comments. The comment period is open through March 4. **Rob will address comments on the strategic plan and present it to the full board for adoption at the next Board meeting.**
- b. The master plan is a process to identify and prioritize investments in the ART, which would then serve as a background document for all future grant applications. Rob shared a schedule for completion of the Master Plan that was premised on the next Recreational Trail Program grant cycle later this year. Rob noted that there are approximately 55 miles of trail on the ground in the interface, with 43.6 miles authorized. There are about 7.4

miles of unofficial or non-system trails in the interface and another 3.5 miles of trail whose status is undetermined.

- c. **MTB Fast Track Environmental Review** – Rob explained that the Fast Track Environmental Review was on a faster timeline than the Master Plan. Accordingly, a modified approach would be needed to meet the Forest Services schedule. **ARTA aims to submit a proposal to the Forest Service within two months** that includes the five following categories of trail projects:
 - i. Trails that were previously approved but never built, such as trails in San Domingo Canyon
 - ii. Unofficial or non-system trails that meet ARTA's goals and objectives
 - iii. Existing ART system trail needing official status clarification
 - iv. Trails that may pose a significant safety or environmental risk and that may warrant rehabilitation/realignment
 - v. Strategic new trail connections

It was ARTA's understanding that this proposal would be used for scoping the environmental review and any commitment would be subject to a partnership agreement with the Forest Service.

Discussion of multi-use trails followed. Concerns were expressed that ARTA is becoming a mountain biking mecca to the exclusion of other users. Rob requested input on the Strategic Plan as a means of emphasizing ARTA's commitment to multi-use trails.

- 5) **Newsletter Transition** - Thanks were given to John for his years as editor and to Emily for publishing her first newsletter.
- 6) **Run-the-Rim Planning Report** – Greg reported on his coordination with “On Your Mark Events” for the Run the Rim event, which is scheduled for June 1st. Steve noted that the event would include race distances of 22 miles, half-marathon, and 10K. Greg is working with Skye Donaldson at Forest Service on obtaining permit. Steve will contact White Pines Park Board to reserve the same spot that was used for the first three times this event was held. Greg will look to sign up volunteers for the Run-the-Rim event at the April orientation meeting.
- 7) **Calendar of Events** - The calendar of events for the year has been sent out. Emily is organizing guided mountain bike rides on Sunday mornings, a new regular event for 2025.
- 8) **Porta Potty at Sierra Nevada Logging Museum** - Nancy M&M recommended a porta potty at SNLM for busy months. The cost for an ADA compliant porta potty would be approximately \$250 per month plus \$55 per service. As a less costly alternative, **Steve will reach out to White Pines Park regarding the use of their bathroom facilities by trail users and to offer a donation in appreciation.**
- 9) **Paper Map Project** – Steve reported that the paper map project had been deferred pending the development/inclusion of QR codes for various trails and routes that may be added to the paper map.

Old Business

The next agenda will include items for the following topics:

- 1) Memberships - discussion regarding how to organize, generate, and coordinate memberships to generate income and loyalty.
- 2) Board insurance - D&O and general liability
- 3) Trailforks implementation
- 4) Adoption of the Strategic Plan
- 5) Update on MTB Environmental Review
- 6) Update on events
- 7) Development of a partnership agreement with the Forest Service
- 8) Alternative restrooms at Logging Museum
- 9) Paper map

Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:02 PM.