



## NFLA - Membership Meeting Minutes

Sunday July 14, 2024

Meeting Date: Sunday July 14, 2024 with speaker at 7 pm and business meeting at 8 pm

Location: Sondreson Community Hall

Host: Board

Attendees: 28 members present

- ✓ Jack McFarland, President
- ✓ Jim Rittenburg, Vice President  
John Zardis, Treasurer -not present
- ✓ John Stone, S. Director
- ✓ Kevin Ulrichsen, S. Director  
Cheryl Crane, N. Director-not present
- ✓ Beth Ulrichsen, Secretary  
Richard Hildner, Past President -not present

7:00 pm: Guest Presentation:

Mark Paulson, president of Big Sky Astronomy Club speaking on “Dark Skies”

8 pm: Membership meeting

1. Call to order at 8:16
2. Welcome and Opening Remarks
  - a. Jack thanked John Stone for his guidance and assistance in installing the ceiling fans, with the assistance of volunteer labor
  - b. The NFPA was thanked for hosting the Interlocal. The food was wonderful
    - i. Jack shared that a key point taken from the Interlocal was that Glacier Drive is estimated to be completed by the first week of August
    - ii. Another key point from the Interlocal was that Glacier National Park requires a fishing license for the Park side of the NF River, but not currently enforced.
  - c. Appreciation for Molly Shepard and Allen Chrisman for their leadership of the annual Firewise Day
3. June 9 Membership Meeting Minutes – Beth shared a short summary (copies available at the meeting and online)
4. Treasurer’s Report
  - a. John Zardis was not available, Jack gave a summary on John’s behalf
    - i. Cash, including restricted cash, totals \$35,192
    - ii. There is a projected cash surplus for this fiscal year, \$3800 (not counting project expenses)
    - iii. Total members , 376 this year vs 375 last year (including associate members- 41 this year, 28 last year), total full memberships are 12 fewer.
    - iv. Cash from memberships is down slightly, due to fewer full memberships
    - v. There have been extra donations this year, \$4,166, last year \$3,340, up \$826. We benefit from many donations from our generous community.
    - vi. Interest income is also up significantly due to higher CD rates, \$900
    - vii. Expenses are in line with last year and below budget

- viii. Notable operating expense change: Mag Chloride was paused for one year. The Board is watching the condition of the road in front of the Hall, and will decide if every other year is sufficient for application
  - ix. The ceiling project and other improvements (the roof vent, pest control, history wall, log oil, ceiling fans) are projected to be \$10,000
    - 1. Originally it was estimated that improvements would be a cost of more than \$20,000, but by building and improving with volunteer manpower a large savings was had
  - x. The Board has decided not to increase dues for this coming year, we are doing well at this time
5. Committee Reports
- a. Sunshine -Bonnie reported that a total of 11 cards were sent since 5/29/24
    - i. 3 sympathy cards (Frank Kummerfeldt, Ron Wilhelm, Clark Ostrom), 5 get well, 2 birthday, and 1 anniversary
    - ii. Jack encouraged the donation of cards to Bonnie for Sunshine use
  - b. History -Lois reported she had a visit from Mike Campbell, who donated letters from Blanch McDougall, she shared that she has photos and a phone transcript from Ron Wilhelm, she shared that Brian Carrol donated a copy of Walt Hammer's autobiography, she explained that Jack McFarland asked for a brief history of the interlocal, and she shared that she is doing research on the lots for sale of the Rocky Bar O Ranch and has shared the info with Randy Kenyon and Jim Rittenburg.
  - c. Maintenance -not available
  - d. Welcome -Beth shared that she and Zoe Zardis will be visting a few folks still on their list in the near future
  - e. Fire Mitigation -Kevin Ulrichsen reported that there was a great turnout at Firewise and that it went very well. The speaker, an insurance agent shared that it is getting harder and harder to obtain fire insurance and that it is more expensive
6. Organization Reports (Non-NFLA)
- a. North Fork Patrol -Mark Heaphy reported:
    - i. There have been no break ins,
    - ii. Mark had a report of someone breaking into cabins, but there has been no evidence of and no report filed with the sheriff,
    - iii. There was a medical emergency with a cyclist that Two Bear Air responded to,
    - iv. There was another medical emergency involving a 10 year old having an allergic reaction and Three Rivers Ambulance responded,
    - v. Mark shared that an individual wanted on a warrant fled from police from Big Creek Campground and entered the water, but did not make it.
    - vi. Jack shared that at Bowman Lake, a man was arrested, many agencies were involved
  - b. Polebridge Bear Smart – no report available
  - c. NFPA -Debo shared that the annual meeting will be held at the end of the month. All are welcome to attend
  - d. NF Trails -Bill Walker shared that they are making progress. Trail 2 is open and passable. Hay Creek is not easily passable. They will continue to do more work on the Grizzly Inn trail
  - e. NFLUAC – Randy was not available to report, Jack reported on his behalf:
    - i. There is concern about the potential for development on the Rocky Bar O listing
    - ii. 2,000 acres are under Nature Conservancy easement, there is Wild and Scenic River easement along the river, the exact nature of the easement is being

reviewed by Randy, Randy will provide the listing agent (Matthew Hohnberger) with a copy of the zoning regulations

- f. Fire Chief -Lynn Ogle shared that we have had a lot of dry weather, heat and wind. If you have a campfire get out of control, report it immediately. There is no open burning at this time, campfires only.

#### 7. Old Business

- a. Propane Heater for the hall -Jim Rittenburg shared that we have had an increase in winter activities at the hall. Difficult to get it heated up from below freezing to reasonable temperature. A propane heater would only be a supplement to the wood stove, not a replacement. The heater would help to heat the logs. A propane heater with a pilot, no electricity required is being researched. A direct vent heater, one that goes straight out the wall. Empire 35,000 btu, \$2,000. Volunteer installation will be used to keep costs down. The new fans will help to push heat down. If it becomes necessary, we can exchange out the leased tank for a larger tank.
  - i. Comments included: Lois Walker, asked how many winter events are there at the Hall. Bonnie Ogle shared that insurance companies often want to know what your secondary heating source is. Lynn Ogle expressed that he is opposed to an unvented heater. Karina shared that rental costs on propane tanks have increased.
- b. Ceiling project: -John Stone shared that the ceiling fans have been installed and wiring completed. The fans have a remote that John has installed on the north wall towards the front of the Hall.

#### 8. New Business

- a. Steve Berg resignation – Jack shared our appreciation for Steve’s efforts and his support for the courts.
- b. Fire protection: Kevin shared that the Board is considering adding a five foot fire resistant space around the hall, propane tank and generator shed. We will need gravel and road cloth
- c. Kevin shared that the Flathead River Alliance donated mesh trash bags to take on the river and keep in our vehicles for trash pickup. They are available at the Hall.
- d. Kevin went over a few key areas of the Hall User Guide. Trash removal, generator operation, and host arrival time were covered.
- e. Debo Powers recommended that the Board consider a sound system with handsfree microphone for the Hall for future events.
- f. Raleigh Pettey shared he is organizing a Community Art Night on August 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00. Featuring local artists Diane Boyd, Karin Colby, Polly Preston, and Eliya Olmsted with a short recital given by Raleigh Pettey at 7 pm.
- g. Beth shared that on July 17<sup>th</sup> there will be Coffee with the Decks on their deck at 9am.
- h. Bill Walker shared that there will be a CPR and AED course on July 23<sup>rd</sup>.

#### 9. Member Comments

#### 10. Next Membership Meeting

- a. Sunday August 11
- b. 7:00 Rachel Malison from the Flathead Biological Station will present on her research on stoneflies and pesticide use
- c. 8:00 Business Meeting

#### 11. Adjourned at 9:12pm