

Prickly Pear Sportsmen's Association
Association Meeting
Tuesday, February 14, 2017
VFW, East Helena
7:00pm

Jason Swant, Chair
Neil Horne, President
Rick Yearry, Vice-President AB
Marcia Snyder, Secretary
Jim Manning, Treasurer
Greg Guthrie, Director AB

Keaton Santos, Director
Larry Cole, Director
Tim Snyder, Director
George Schiller, Director
Darrell Harris, Director AB

The meeting was called to order by President Neil Horne at 7:05pm.

27 members, including board members, were present.

Secretary Marcia Snyder read the minutes from the January meeting. George Schiller moved and Keaton Santos seconded a motion to approve. Motion passed.

Treasurer Jim Manning reported that we have a balance of \$21,133.32 in our checking account. President Neil Horne mentioned that one of the bills paid in January was a bill for \$1000 to Northside Welding for gong maintenance. The actual cost was \$5,000..... local vendors are still supporting our shooting range! Kerry Bartlett moved and George Schiller seconded a motion to accept the report. Motion passed.

Officers/Director's reports

Forest Service Communications - Larry Cole reported that our yearly meeting with the Forest Service would be held Wednesday, February 15th. He said that we will be going over our accomplishments for 2016, our annual operating plan, and goals for 2017 and forward.

Range Officer Report – for Jordan, our RMO, Jason Swant reported that as the word was “snow” for last month at the range, it is “ice” for this month. Sanding is taking place, but members are still being asked to shovel your lanes if you find them snowy. A larger 400-yard target has been approved and is on order.

Old Business

Golf Cart – Neil reported that the board has approved a new golf cart and it is on order and should arrive in a couple of months. The range seems to be draining better so far this season. We are in the process of recycling the gongs, so if you see something missing, it is probably being fixed

Events – event dates for 2017 have so far been scheduled. Continue to check the website and Facebook for details.

Budget & Audit Committee – Neil reported that we are well into the budget and auditing cycle and introduced committee members Annette Rinehart, Tim Wheel and Marcia Snyder, who will process the information and report to the Board.

New Business

HB96 – Jim Manning said that this bill has killed since the last meeting. This was the bill that would have given landowners more free tags for use of their land for hunting. To avoid losing an opportunity to provide input, it was discussed that conceptually we might want to consider a stand on a bill, with the reservation that we could revisit it if the bill actually came to a vote. Jason asked for input on this.

Bill Covey brought up the corner-crossing bill, which is still in draft and therefore has not been introduced. It failed in the last session. George Schiller made a motion to consider supporting this bill in case it comes up. Jim Manning seconded. Discussion centered on how this bill works: it addresses a hunter technically trespassing on private property if that private property adjoins public property, and the hunter would have to step over the private property to get back on the public. If the bill passes and a person can cross at an intersection, it would open a lot more land to hunting. Tim Wheel said that we should want to look at the specific language; Jason concurred about seeing the intent of the bill before voicing a group opinion. The question was called; the vote was 14 ayes and 4 nays.

Nominating Committee – Neil asked for a volunteer to chair a nominating committee. No one volunteered so Neil will appoint one for the next meeting.

Member Comments

Sherri Lionberger brought up the issue of guest passes. Specifically she wanted the routine in taking a guest clarified. It was explained that a guest pass needed to be obtained at one of the 4 sportshops that sell our memberships. The pass is then good for 5 consecutive days. Sherri suggested that maybe we needed to rethink our guest pass policy as she felt that it discouraged taking guests. Several other members then provided input with various solutions, many of which have been considered in the past. Neil said that he would take the issue back to the Board for further discussion.

There being no further business to discuss, Tim Snyder moved and Bill Covey second a motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:07pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Marcia Snyder, Secretary