

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

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

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

President Neil Horne called the March meeting of PPSA to order at 7:00 pm.

30 Members were in attendance, including Board Members.

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

Treasurer Jim Manning reported that at the end of February, there was \$24,261,71 in our checking account, based on \$1771.61 in expenses during February and \$4900.00 in deposits.

OFFICERS/DIRECTORS REPORTS

Forest Service – Larry Cole was absent so Neil reported on communication with the Forest Service. Our yearly meeting was held with the FS last month. From the list of projects for 2017, the first five, of seven, were approved. Six was the land swap, which is an ongoing goal for the association. Number seven, a target at 500 yards, met with a positive response, but the FS wants to look at the area after the snow is gone for final approval. Jason added that our lease is up in 2020 and the process for renewal will begin next year. Jim Manning brought up the monies through FWP that are available for shooting clubs this year, but are not available to us because we do not own the land. Jason clarified that the monies require a 10-year commitment, which at this point we can't give. Bill Covey asked if there has been any opposition to a lease renewal that we know of since there was some the last time it was renewed. Jason and Neil both concurred that there was not at this time, that they knew; everything is positive with the FS.

Range Maintenance Officer – Jason reported for Jordan Alexander, our RMO. "Mud" is the word this month for the range, however the water does seem to be draining better this year. Gongs are in the process of being repaired. We can always use help keeping an eye on the Rim Fire area..... center fire firearms are again being used in this area again. If something does not seem right at the range, contact any board member.

OLD BUSINESS

Special Events Coordinator – Rick Yearry will have updates at the next meeting.

Budget & Audit Committee – Neil reported that although on track at this time, this committee is in a holding pattern due to the elections next month.

Guest Passes – Neil reported that it appears as if members are interested in a “pay as you play” type fee. He randomly polled 21 members in the last month and 19 wanted this type of change. Kerry Bartlett asked if this type of procedure is good with our insurance. Jason answered yes. Tim Wheel asked about a deposit box. Neil went over the options the Board is considering but no decision at this time. A straw poll was taken of the members present regarding this change. Of the 21 members present, 3 did not want the change. Discussion then centered on the fee to be charged. Two amounts - \$5 or \$10 – were the topic of this discussion. Of the members present when asked, 6 voted for the \$5 fee and 15 voted for the \$10 fee. A question about availability of a receipt for paying the monies would be available and the answer was yes. Another question dealt with consequences if caught without paying, and Neil answered that they would be asked to pay and then asked to leave if they chose not to pay. Supporting the \$10 fee, Jim Manning thought it might make shooters feel as if they are making an investment, and another member brought up that it is easier to start high and reduce than to increase a lower fee later. Final point for this item centered on what we want for our range, that being at what point will we have too many members/people using it. Jason assured the members that the Board is mindful of that, with a membership last year higher than ever. Neil stated that there would be a decision at the next meeting.

OTHER OLD BUSINESS

Dinner Service – Jim Manning brought up the issue of whether or not we wanted to continue this at the monthly meetings. Neil shared with the group that the costs totaled about \$3,000 for last year and shared with the members present the options the Board is considering, namely just serving a dessert in place of a dinner or continuing the dinner. Bill Covey shared with the group the background to this practice. A decision will be forthcoming.

NEW BUSINESS

Nominating Committee – Bill Covey presented the slate of officers to be voted on at our April meeting. They are as follows: Jason Swant, Board Chairman; Annette Rinehart, Treasurer; Maddi Tormey, Secretary; and for 2 directors' positions, Kerry Bartlett, Cory Olson, and Greg Guthrie. Board Chair is a 2-year position; Treasurer and Secretary are 1-year positions; and Directors are 3-year positions.

Dave Tobel from Capital Sports talked about the Ruger Demonstration that CS will be holding at the Range on April 29th, 10am – 2pm.

OTHER BUSINESS

Neil showed the Shooting Range signs that will be put up around the perimeter of the range in the coming months. The FS surveyed the Range this past fall and will allow us a 200 yard buffer range outside of the boundaries for signage.

There being no further business to discuss, Bill Covey moved and Darrell Harris seconded a motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:03pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Marcia Snyder, Secretary