

Trails For All (TFA) Meeting Minutes
January 12, 2021, 5:30 pm, Monthly Board Meeting
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
Board Approved: February 9, 2021

a) Board Members Present

Kate Vickery (KV)	Paul Parsons (PP)
Chuck Ziehr (CZ)	Janet Smith (JS)
Herb Kober (HK)	John Anderson (JA)

b) Board Members Absent

Mark Dembosky (MD)

Others present

Megan Lynch, Steve Lasswell, Bill Keene, Andrew Todd

Secretary Note: President PP scheduled this meeting as virtual due to Corona Virus social restrictions.

Consent agenda:

1. December 8, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes approval
2. December 2020 Treasurer's report approval

KV moved and HK seconded that the consent agenda be approved; it passed unanimously.

Discussion Items:

1. Adoption of a 2021 Budget

The December 2020 Treasurer's Report included a proposed 2021 budget prepared by HK and was used as a starting point for discussion. It was noted that \$7,500 in the 2020 budget from a grant for S.E.E.K will be rolled over into the 2021. Equipment was increased to \$700. The Event Sponsorship line was changed to Event/Outreach. A Grant Support/Matching line was added for \$500 which may be used to support a bike trail planning grant application; this line item was moved by CZ, seconded by KV, and passed unanimously. HK updated information about the trail guide. It will be about 70 pages and cost \$7.50 each to print; reported that Tom Dimler had suggested a \$20 retail price. It was agreed to print 100 copies and split the profit 50/50 with Tom at All the Range.

KV moved and CZ seconded the revised 2021 budget. The revised proposed budget attached as a .pdf at the bottom of this document.

2. Report: conversation Paul Parsons had with Jeff Outhier

PP had sent the Board the following summary of a conversation that he had on December 14, 2020 with Jeff Outhier (USFS):

A Visit with Jeff Outhier
December 14, 2020

Here's the report I promised from a conversation I had with Jeff on the 14th. This was a follow-up to a number of questions that came up in our December 8th TFA board meeting. I hope you will find it both helpful and refreshing. Because we talked about so many different topics, I will enumerate them, just to keep each one distinct:

1. **Youth Crews Scheduled for 2021 and beyond.** Jeff has contracted with American Youth Corps, I believe, to have a team here for 2 weeks next summer. His original plan was to have them work on Comanche-Venable, but that can't happen until 2022. So, in the coming summer, he will have them do extensive work on 3 Front Range trails in the Wets: Newlin and 2 others I am unfamiliar with, both of which he says have gotten very little use until the Pandemic, in which they were flooded with people this last summer.
2. **The Rainbow Trail washout.** As you may remember, the Rainbow Trail up above Duckett Creek was washed out by runoff after the Hayden Fire a few years ago. The repair of this section was not under Jeff's direction but rather under the Salida USFS office. They were supposed to get it repaired this last summer, but he hasn't heard. More to be revealed. Let's hope it's fully functional so we can recommend people to go that way.
3. **The Rainbow Lutheran Camp counselors.** Because the Lutheran camp had no campers on site this last summer, the staff held camp online. But they had time on their hands, which led Chuck to make a connection between them and Jeff, who utilized them extensively during the summer (because the camp has a Special Use Permit, they were able to work when USFS volunteers like us could not). He said they did an outstanding job on N.Brush, Macey [partial], and North Colony. Jeff was especially pleased with N. Colony which is now wonderfully open all the way to the lower lake. He said it looks like they will reconnect for more work next summer. Nice job, Chuck, putting those two together.
4. **A Bear Basin Outfitter.** One fellow who works for the Bear Basin Outfitter company is doing some community work, for which Jeff has given direction. And that led him to sending him up the almost impenetrable Texas Creek Trail. Jeff says he got it in good shape, going up as far as the meadow. He is pleased that several trails that have been practically unusable got opened-up this summer.
5. **Downed Trees.** Looking ahead, he is hearing the same thing we are hearing - that trees are down everywhere, including where the good work this last summer took place. It looks like he will be extensively using Jess (who is coming back for another summer), the Bear Basin guy, the Rainbow Lutheran camp folks, and us in 2021.
6. **Shock Waves from the Pandemic.** The whole world starting to discover us this last summer, looking for a relief valve from confinement. He anticipates that this will not go away. We talked a lot about what is happening all over the West - fees, permits, and camping only in designated spots. He said up in northern CO, they have had to do this very thing already, and that there is no longer any "throw your sleeping bag wherever you want" kind of camping. He says we're not there yet, but not only overuse will ultimately catch up to us, but also the need for fees to cover costs will become more and more of an issue. Just a heads up to us all.
7. **Signs Replacement and Refurbishing.** Jeff has the Cathy Griffith 3-ring binder, but he couldn't lay his hands on it when I was at the office with him. He has several signs ready to replace ones that are down or missing or in error. Most of what will be needed will be digging holes for replacement posts. We should have a good shot at implementing this next summer. We should revisit it in spring.
8. **An App for Collecting Data.** Jeff says that there have been 3 different apps being used within the USFS or at least by various governmental agencies, as on-line GIS data collectors. These 3 are being combined right now into 1 app by the parent company, ESRI. This app, a recent email was saying, can be used by volunteers like us, which is the wonderful news and a breakthrough it sounds like from the obstacles we have faced in the recent past. The work for us, if we take on the implementation of using this app, will be to collect data using their extensive menu system,

sending data on a whole host of situations we encounter on a trail. And the truth is that the data that we input aren't available for us to access after we've turned it in - it's for Jeff to read and then communicate to us, guiding us to what he wants us to do on any given trail. (Plus, of course, we can make our own notes on what we see and let that guide us to some extent.). But it does look like there's a solution in the making right now.

9. **A Counter.** There is an ongoing need for data that supports Jeff's requests/applications for funding, especially the number of backcountry hikers and climbers and campers. A high-level counter would be the best solution, but it is pricey: \$2800. This device/system can be moveable, and it could be placed in different locations at set times and weekends, and would verify to a funding organization that there is a very real need for investment in that place or drainage. It could also satisfy some of the Solitude Character of Wilderness that would help Jeff's favorability for governmental funds. I am wondering if TFA would be willing to consider including such a purchase in our 2021 budget discussions?

10. **The Hardscrabble Vision.** Of all the things we talked about, this one was inspiring in its own special way. Jeff has a vision for a section of the Wet Mountains that no one has touched in decades. The old trails are still there from long ago, but they're grown over, a mess, and unkempt. They involve Rudolph Mountain, and North, Middle, and South Hardscrabble trails. They all connect-up, or at least they can be made to connect-up with trail clearing. They would open-up a whole section of hiking in areas almost no one has ever seen. There would be designated back country camping spots for people really seeking solitude. I was enthralled hearing about it. I think it might be something that Jeff seriously is thinking about as a legacy he would prepare and pass on if he retires in another 5 years or so. I asked him if he wanted TFA to help, and he would love our help for pieces of it here and there. I will supply his plan and map when I figure out how to scan documents, send them to Chuck and to all of you, and maybe we can chat a bit about it at our January meeting.

There was a general discussion of some of the above items. PP expressed an interest in TfA working on at least one of the new trails mentioned in 10. The Hardscrabble Vision. CZ thought we should focus on existing trails during our trail maintenance efforts. JS suggested that we follow Jeff's lead on what assistance he needed from TfA. No specific action/decision was taken relative to this conversation with Jeff.

During this discussion there was mention of sources of income for TfA. JA suggested information being posted at trailheads requesting donations and assistance. JA mentioned the income that can come to TfA from Amazon Smile and noted that it is difficult to find information about TfA online. JS will explore what information is available about TfA in Guide Star (used in Amazon Smile).

3. Report: Bike Trail Planning Committee

HK, KV, and CZ reported briefly on the progress of the Trails for All Bike Trail Planning Committee at its meeting on January 11, 2021. The committee decided to explore with BLM what land could be accessed in the White Hills north of Silver Cliff. They are exploring area partnerships with other organizations and bikers, such as Frontier Pathways. They are considering seeking a planning grant from CPW. The committee will meet again on February 8 at 3:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Adjournment

President Paul Parsons adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:00 p.m.



Trails For All

Proposed Budget - 2021 (updated YTD 1/13/21)

Account Description	12/31/2019 2019 Actual	12/31/2020 2020 Actual	2021 Budget	2021 Actual	Comments
Direct Public Support - Individual Contributions	513.00	973.00	1,000.00		Expecting a similar contribution level for 2021
Direct Public Support - Corporate Contributions	2,000.00	1,070.23	1,600.00		Expecting a similar contribution level for 2021, basically includes JA match, Amazon and Salesforce
Direct Public Support - Spirit Campaign	2,217.94	4,905.16	4,000.00		Estimating a slight reduction
Direct Public Support - Event Generated	-	-	-		
Product Sales	-	804.22	3,850.00		2500 clothing, 1350 hiking guides
Grants	5,800.00	7,500.00	7,500.00		** rolled over the 2020 \$7500 SEEK grant (Tom and Taurin Dimler).
Total Income	10,530.94	15,252.61	17,950.00		
Bank Service Charge	(60.81)	(65.37)	(65.00)		May reduce, depending on banking decision
Insurance	(1,493.00)	(1,512.00)	(1,550.00)		Estimating similar amount.
Event/Outreach	(50.00)	(79.00)	(300.00)		Estimating an increase (hopefully!).
Grant Support/Matching			(500.00)		Support of possible mountain biking planning grant/BLM/Greg Smith - may roll over to 2022
Equipment	(728.31)		(700.00)		
Operating Supplies	(58.10)	(40.70)	(100.00)		
Training/Tuition	(24.00)		-		
Travel Expenses	-		-		
SEEK Support	(4,969.50)	(7,500.00)	(7,500.00)		** 2020 dollars moved to 2021 - see Grants income above. Hopefully Tom can implement a program this year.
Trail development expense	-		(500.00)		
Web Hosting Fee	(132.00)	(156.00)	(160.00)		Estimating a slight increase.
Web Registration	(51.76)				
Web Development/Maintenance					
Mailchimp			(180.00)		
State Fees	(11.00)	(20.00)	(20.00)		2020 fees paid by HK in kind and did not post in books
Printing/Shirts/Collateral	(52.00)	(1,461.65)	(2,250.00)		1500 clothing, 750 hiking guide
Advertising	(120.00)		(200.00)		
Total Expenses	(7,750.48)	(10,834.72)	(14,025.00)		
Net Cash	2,780.46	4,417.89	3,925.00	-	
			Projected net EOY 2021	Actual net YTD 2021	