

Friends of Twin Lakes Member Meeting

September 22, 2018

Meeting began at 9:02 a.m.

Board of Directors. Present: Kelly Sweeney, President; Judy Leaming, Secretary. Absent: Kurt Schweigert, VP/Treasurer; Anita Mason and Joan Weber, at-large members.

FoTL minutes. Motion by Larry Marcum and second by John Kester to approve FoTL minutes for August 11, 2018. Motion passed.

Status of funds. \$11,755.70 general fund as of 9/13 (\$2,866 from garage/estate sale) and \$87,446.46 special set asides as of 9/1: \$84,077.25 for fire station 2 (this includes Climax grant of \$50,000 + Alan Elias/Angel View will give \$20,000 matching contribution) \$54,407 from 83 donors, although some were repeat donors giving in both 2014 and 2018. \$2,982 is historic district funds in the set aside account. 107 paid FoTL members in 2018; 74 paid members in 2017.

- **Trash program.** We have paid two months of trash pick-up (\$140/month) and have \$478 in funds on hand. The program is working very well.
- **Bingo contribution.** We purchased a vacuum for the school house with funds from Bingo.
- **FoTL Board authorization.** The board approved the purchase of a soundbar and subwoofer for the TV in the school house for \$218.

Wood chipping update. On September 26th at 6:30 pm in the school house, the new Wildland-Urban Interface Mitigation Specialist, Carrie Howard, will update us on the upcoming chipping program. They'll use grant funds to cover 1/2 of the cost.

Decision on allocation of funds from the garage/estate sale. FoTL members approved the board recommendation: \$1,000 for Fire Station 2; \$1,000 for Lake County Emergency Fund; and remainder to FoTL general fund with some funds going to pay for a Wes Duran memorial bench to be placed in the school house yard.

Decision on donation for fire station 2 interior finish items. FoTL members approved the board recommendation: \$52,000 will be used for construction and any funds over that amount will be used for interior finish items like cabinets, furniture, paint, IT, etc.

Special thanks to FoTL member volunteer this summer:

- **Red Rooster volunteers**
- **Seminar presenters**
- **Float builders and Boom Days participants**

- Trail workers
- Fire Station 2 volunteers
- Bingo organizers

Special thanks to area businesses for their contributions to FoTL:

- Twin Lakes Inn
- Punky's
- Shooting Star Gallery
- Twin Lakes General Store
- Ball Town Mini-Motors

Reminder of upcoming events:

- **Meet the candidates:** Monday, September 24th, 5:30 pm at the Leadville high school auditorium. This event is sponsored by the Leadville/Lake County Chamber of Commerce.
- **Trip to Heritage Museum:** Tuesday, September 25th 10 am (\$5 per person). Those who want to car pool, please meet at the Schoolhouse at 9:30 am. Sign-up sheet was circulated at the meeting.
- **Wood chipping update:** Wednesday, September 26th, 6:30 pm at the school house.
- **Battle for the badge (candidates for sheriff):** Tuesday, October 4th, 6:30 pm at Freight, 320 E. 9th Street in Leadville.
- **Bingo:** Wednesday, October 5th, 5:30 pm. Note earlier time during shorter daylight hours.

St. Vincent's CEO. Gary Campbell would like to visit FoTL to discuss change in services at St. Vincent's. We will try to get him for a non-Bingo Tuesday in October, if not then, at member meeting in November.

John King Memorial Bench: FoTL members approved paying \$500 to Tim Jaster and Matt Hakala for creating this memorial bench. These funds come from the \$1,000 donation by John King's mother. It will be moved up to the beaver pond following the meeting. Volunteers to help move the bench would be appreciated.

9:32 Salida District Ranger Jim Pitts and Cat Kamke, Forest Service Archeologist arrived.

They apologized for being late. Jim Pitts explained some of the difficulties of being a shared ranger during Mary Moore's 4-month detail in Jackson Hole. When MM took a new position, covering multiple districts provided an opportunity to learn what others do and to develop strategic ways to cover responsibilities. The Forest Service (FS) budget has been flat for two years. A flat budget means a 5% cut. He discussed the open house in July and the response from people who attended. It was clear that the public doesn't support combining the Leadville and Salida ranger positions. The search for an acting ranger (120 days) is in process now. It takes a year to fill a permanent position.

While they lack continuity at the District Ranger level, Cat Kamke provides continuity on historic/heritage matters.

- CAT wants to build relationships among/between the area's volunteer groups to leverage skills.
- Ranger Pitts committed to providing better continuity to the acting ranger to be assigned and working toward a 3 year plan.

Great frustration was expressed at the inability of FoTL to enter into a new cost-share agreement with the Forest Service, along with the inability to prevent further deterioration of buildings in the Forest Service Historic Park because we do not have permission to proceed on any preservation.

- Ranger Pitts does not know why this has taken so long, but now the person in charge of cost-share agreements is on fire detail.
- Ranger Pitts will strive to set up a meeting for FoTL to discuss the cost-share agreement with the person in charge sometime in the last two weeks of October.

Other options raised by FoTL: Could FS sell us the land? Or give FoTL a 100-yr lease? Or a permit? Ranger Pitts informed that only Congress can sell the land. A permit would still have to go through heritage. The cost-share agreement could be broad enough to cover long-term operations (similar to a permit).

Final questions from FoTL: How can you help us with Heritage Park?

- Ranger Pitts summarized: Develop a scoping list, complete a cost-share agreement, set up a meeting in October.
- They are delivering a Smokey the Bear fire danger sign for the Village.
- Ranger Pitts had no idea that we were supposed to get a kiosk for the Historic Park last May so he cannot report on the status.

Next FoTL meeting: Saturday, November 10th (10 am).

Upcoming dates to save:

- **October 31 (Halloween).** Special Bingo night.
- **January 19, 2019.** FoTL member meeting.
- **February 15 or 16, 2019.** Everyone is a Sweetheart in Twin Lakes.
- **March 16, 2019.** St. Patrick's Day celebration?
- **April 27, 2019.** FoTL member meeting.

Meeting adjourned. Motion to adjourn by John Kester + second by Beth Manning. We may not have had a quorum to complete this motion.