

**Sierra Vista Scenic Byway Association**  
**Annual Meeting Minutes**  
4-19-10

Attendees

Board: Jack McGowan, Mike Nolen, Dan Carter, Mark Williams, Doug Waltner  
Forest Service Reps: Gayne Sears, Linda McPhail  
General Members: 10

Call to Order at 6:10 PM: Five Board Members present constitute a quorum.

- I. Minutes from March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010 meeting were approved.
- II. Treasurer's Report: Grizzly Fund \$21,305 and Byway Association Operating fund \$2,143.77. Report approved.
- III. Current Business
  - A. Board of Directors Election - Jack McGowan, Mike Nolen, Dan Carter, Mark Williams and Doug Waltner were elected by acclamation.
  - B. Doug reported that two educational Byway tours are scheduled: The first, on July 17<sup>th</sup> will feature Connie Popelish Byway historian. The second, on August 7<sup>th</sup> will feature Tom Burdette a Nationally known Geologist. Both tours will commence from the North Fork Post Office parking lot at 9am and return around mid-afternoon. Lunch will be provided for a \$10 donation.
  - C. Doug also reported that an audio Byway tour is being developed and it can be downloaded from iTunes under "Exploring the San Joaquin".
  - D. Mike reported that the Redinger Overlook railing restoration is about half completed. The concrete footing has been poured and the vertical posts are installed. Two rows of cinder blocks remain to be laid and the completion of the pipe railing must be done. Mike suggested that volunteers might be requested to help complete the project. Most materials have been purchased except for a load of decomposed granite (DG) needed for grading. It was suggested that there might be some DG available up near Mammoth Pool dam. Gayne said that the rail design is similar to the Mile High Overlook railing. This will conform to the landscape architect's desire to maintain uniformity along all Byway overlooks/viewpoints. Gayne praised the Byway/Grizzly partnership and Mike Nolen's effort including personal time.

- E. Linda and Gayne reported that the Forest Service is applying for California off-highway vehicle grants. They explained that they must include groups and partners with the grant application. They asked if the Byway Association would state support of the Motorized Recreation Plan for controlled/regulated motorized recreation in the Sierra National Forest to promote legal visits by tourists who use quads/motorcycles. This could mean more tourist dollars for North Fork businesses as they will get gas/food/provisions in town. A motion to provide a letter of support was moved, seconded and approved. Tom Wheeler, County Supervisor (present at the meeting) agreed to provide a letter of support from the Madera Bd. of Supervisors.
- F. The Greater North Fork Art Gallery is having a reopening event May 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>, and the Byway has been asked to have a manned booth at their event. Doug volunteered to man the booth for a few hours. Byway brochures and tee-shirts would be good items to have at the booth.
- G. Dan gave us an update on the GeoTourism Map website as well as the Facebook Fan Page he is creating for the Byway. Links to both will be included on the Byway's official website [www.sierravistascenicbyway.org](http://www.sierravistascenicbyway.org)

#### IV. Presentation

Adele & Reid Marks, Docents/Campground Hosts at the Nelder Grove Camp gave a presentation, including a slide show, on activities of the Friends of Nelder Grove organization. They were standing in for Brenda Negley who was unable to attend the meeting. The Marks, who have been campground hosts for 6 years, spoke to over 2000 Nelder Grove visitors last summer. They told us about a fallen tree that was verified via carbon dating to be 10,000 years old. It was estimated that it fell at age 1,000. Other interesting facts shared were that Sequoia trees produce 60 million seeds, but only 3 or 4 of those seeds grow into trees that live to be 100 years old.

For more info contact: Brenda Negley at (559)760-9108, or the Friends of Nelder Grove website, [www.neldergrove.org](http://www.neldergrove.org) Contact Gayne if you want to be a campground host.

- V. The next Board meeting, is scheduled for May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010, at the USFS North Fork Ranger Station conference room, 6:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm