

Sierra Vista Scenic Byway Association

Minutes of the Board meeting of July 11, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by President, Jack McGowan. Present were Board members Mark Williams, Mike Nolen, Sandy Brinley and Volney Dunavan. Gayne Sears represented Dave Martin.

The minutes of the meeting of June 13 were approved with a correction under new business. The paragraph should correctly read: It was reported that the railing wall at Mile High Vista needs some repair. Also removing some view blocking trees would enhance the area.

The Treasurer's report was approved with the web update \$30 debit and the \$100 Visitor's Bureau debit being Byway expenses rather than Grizzly expenses. That would make the Byway ending balance \$1,648.51 and the Grizzly ending balance \$19,216.89. Total ending balance of \$20,865.40 was correct.

Old Business and Board Member Input:

- Jack was concerned about the low response to the membership letters; at the end of 2008, we had 70 members and only 24 so far this year. Experience says that more people will join after the tours.
- There had been a date glitch in the Sierra Star story about the tours; it will be corrected in the next issue.
- For the Nelder Grove tour, Jack drove the road to "Shadow of the Giants" and the parking lot. Jack said the road was pretty bad. A forest management project in that area could improve the trails. Jack will work with Brenda Negley, the docent.
- The Byway Association had been looking at placing signage at the two main entry points to the Byway. Gayne indicated that an older sign had been rescued and was being worked on by a landscape architect. Over the next couple of weeks it will be put at the Redinger overlook which is getting some other cleanup attention. The Byway Association put a bench at Redinger but it had lipstick on it and the curbing had been disturbed; perhaps someone had driven over it.
- Soon a Youth Conservation Corp leader and 5 younger folks will scrape and paint at Arch Rock.
- At Mile High, the retaining wall needs work. The existing vista description signs need some refurbishing. One sign includes a big tree in the foreground that is no longer there. The Forest Service landscape architect will evaluate the locale.
- A discussion about the Byway designation brought out the following points:
 1. The Byway is currently designated a National Forest Byway.
 2. The Byway cannot be a California Scenic Route because it is in the National Forest.
 3. Having the Byway designated as an Americas Scenic Byway may be possible and would have the advantage of National and International marketing and be eligible for Government grants. Two main requisites for obtaining the Americas Scenic Byway designation are a Corridor Management Plan (which is the responsibility of the Forest Service) and strong stakeholder support.

The meeting was adjourned at 8 p.m. The next meeting will be August 8 at 7 p.m. at the USFS North Fork Ranger Station Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted, Volney Dunavan