



**SGPF Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, August 17, 2023**  
**Empire Mine Docent Room**

**Board Members Present:** Jesse Locks, Robert Coats, Syd Brown, Steve Sanchez via phone, Rhea Williamson (Zoom)

**Board Members Absent:** Hank Weston

**Others:** Paige Haller

Jesse called the meeting to order at 2:05pm

- 1) **Review agenda**—additions: A short discussion about changing the board meetings to accommodate Steve Sanchez's Thursday market commitments. We will check with Hank with if morning meetings can work with his schedule.

**Action: Check with Hank for Board meeting schedule change to morning, still 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday.**

- 2) **Review and approval of minutes:** Moved by Robert, seconded by Jesse to approve the minutes from July 20 board meeting. Passed unanimously.
- 3) **CAL Report (Paige Haller)**—Rob Griffith has been selected as the new Sierra District Superintendent. Jean, Sam and Paige have conducted interviews for the Interpretive Park Aide position at Bridgeport, to be working at the visitor center at Bridgeport. Paige will be off for a few weeks, returning September 11. Jean is working on scheduling a volunteer appreciation event, tentatively scheduled for November 1, with details to be worked out in the future. Rhea volunteered to work with Jean on the volunteer appreciation event, and Robert also stepped up. Nicole is making great progress on interpretive programming at Malakoff. Paige is requesting coffee and coffee supply purchases for a Saturday Coffee and Tea with a Park Staffer at Malakoff. Stakeholder meeting was held with contractors for the Empire Mine Interpretive Master Plan. Participants included GV and NC Chambers of Commerce, Newmont Mining Corporation, Wolf Creek Alliance, BONC (Bicyclist of Nevada County), equestrians, etc., thanks to personal outreach efforts by Jesse. Parks and Mark Selverston met with Shelly Covert about Nisenen-DPR interactions and plans to flesh out a more comprehensive telling of our local history. Jean is planning a second volunteer training in October for both new and renewing volunteers who missed the spring refresher. The Empire Mine State Historic Park brochure will be re-printed by State Parks (50,000), with no changes.

Robert inquired about the MaryAnn Coleman table issue at Bridgeport. Paige said that a replacement table has been located and is on the way.

#### **4) Committee Reports**

- a) **Finance:** Robert circulated the Treasurer's reports in advance of the meeting via email. We received about \$263 in donations from the Nevada County Fair. We have a list of SGPF Miner's Picnic expenses.
- b) **Governance:** New board member approval. William Silva has attended 2 board meetings. Jesse and he chatted about his candidacy, filling out information about his community involvement activities. He has volunteered with various local non-profits, including Habitat for Humanity. Moved by Robert, seconded by Syd to elect William Silva for a 2-year term. Motion passed unanimously.

*Sierra Gold Parks Foundation Mission:*

*Sierra Gold Parks Foundation is dedicated to the sustainable stewardship of Empire Mine State Historic Park, Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park, and South Yuba River State Park now and for future generations. Working in collaboration with California State Parks, we support educational programs and projects that enrich the visitors' experiences and protect our parks.*



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**Action: Communicate election results to William, and provide him with SGPF materials (bylaws, policies, etc.)**

- c) **Sales Center:** Paige discussed interpretive items versus souvenirs and tax implications. Syd asked for clarification about items approved for sale in the sales centers. Paige would consider an annual review of our inventory, and give guidance and direction for the future purchases. Jean and Paige will get together and evaluate offerings at the sales centers this fall. Syd will email Paige about possibly selling gold panning kits. Robert has had conversations with Big Hairy Dog-recommended business regarding our payment processes. We have 3 credit card readers which will be obsolete Oct. 10.

**Actions: Schedule sales center reviews, email Paige about gold panning kits, secure new payment processor partner.**

d) **Events**

1. SGPF/State Parks Events

- Miner's Picnic–August 26. Steve will be hanging additional banners around town. SGPF will table at the picnic, if we can get volunteers.
- Bridgeport Dinner–October 7.
- Holidays in the Park–December 2

- e) **Communications:** Working with the Yuba Safety Cohort on coordinated messaging. Picked up 2023 bandanas and delivered to Bridgeport via Ryan Randar. Probably have plenty to carry us through summer 2024.

5) **Old Business:**

- IMP Progress. Stakeholder meeting was held, with good participation on August 10, 2023. Jesse encouraged everyone to fill out the IPM questionnaire, and to share that it's important for as many people as possible to fill it out. We are needing more participation.
- County Outdoor Visitors Safety Grant Update. Jesse and Mary attended the Board of Supervisors' meeting. Supervisors Hall and Hoek were both very supportive and vied to speak in support of our grant.

6) **New Business:**

- SB668 (Dodds) Syd brought up a concern that this legislation is moving quickly through the legislature. The bill proposes to delete a sunset clause provision with respect to operation of State Park System units by cooperative associations. The bill doesn't force Parks to "hand over" operations, but it is a troubling prospect.
- **SYRCL:** River cleanup is September 23. We are supporting the cleanup with a sponsorship, and Syd will try to get a team together.
- Robert raised the Q about ongoing Alhambra water filling 5-gallon containers at Bridgeport, at the visitors center and the parking lot. We may or may not need them given our plans for new water filling stations.

Moved by Robert, seconded by Jesse to adjourn 3:59. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

*Syd Brown*

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**2023 Board Meeting Schedule**  
Third Thursday of the Month at 2pm

September 21  
October 19  
November 16  
December 14

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**Committees**

**Sales Center** (Robert, Syd, Rhea and Jesse) Meeting day and time to be set by committee

**Governance and Finance** (Robert and Jesse) Second Tuesday of every month at 3pm

**Events** (Steve and Jesse) First Friday at 1pm

**Communications** (Syd and Jesse) First Wednesday at 10am

**Fundraising** (Jesse, Rhea, Hank, and Robert) First Monday at 2pm

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