



**SGPF Board Meeting Agenda  
Thursday, December 14, 2023  
Empire Mine Docent Room  
ZOOM CONFERENCE CALL**

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/89837828360?pwd=vOvhbHxaxR8J3VZY7EdQ1mhnDVrbF>

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

**Board Members Absent:** William Silva

**Others:** Rob Griffith (via zoom), Alex Neeb

Jesse called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m.

- 1) **Review agenda**—additions: Syd: Year-end appeal, old school mailing? Empire Club and others' events? Robert; a discussion of the implications of the State Budget deficit.
- 2) **Review and approval of minutes:** Moved by Robert, seconded by Hank. Minutes approved by unanimous vote.
- 3) **CAL Report**

**Rob:** State Budget deficit: Just yesterday received communication from Dept. of Finance about projected \$65 **billion** State budget deficit. Lots of unknowns about the future implications for Parks. At this time no mission or direction, change is anticipated. As always, support organizations advocacy is very important.

**Alex:** extended a thank you for all the efforts for the Holiday in the Park event. Sierra District currently has a 40% vacancy rate (unfilled positions). District is still awaiting HQ approval for backfilling Paige's position.

**South Yuba River State Park's** comprehensive archeology survey of all our parcels is underway, and will run for 1-2 years. Chuck Scimeca has nominated the **Independence Trail** as a Historic Landmark. There is still no progress on the burnt trail and trestle re-construction.

Archeology testing of the China Gardens area of **Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park** is planned for the upcoming year. The Interpretive Master Plan project for **Empire Mine State Historic Park** is progressing. The contractors are synthesizing the survey data, which was collected online, at the county fair, street fairs (farmers markets) and park visitors over the last year. Alex reported that State Parks is beta testing a virtual adventure experience program, and that Empire Mine is a potential target candidate. Alex addressed Qs about the SP funding requests for 2024. No additional money is requested for the dress project for 2024, since the contractor is limited by time, not \$ at this juncture.

- 4) **Committee Reports** (as needed)
  - a) **Finance:** Robert sent out the monthly treasurer's report in advance of the meeting for review and questions. There were no questions.
  - b) **Governance:** No new action
  - c) **Sales Center:** Syd reported on the volunteers and plans for the new year at all three shops.

*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.*



- d) **Events:** Nothing new (as a footnote with respect to the Holidays at the Park: Robert brought up the background check for the Santa. We were assured that the check would be conducted. We haven't yet received confirmation, and need to assure that there was official State Park approval for this and that the background check was conducted.)
  - e) **Communications: End of the Year Newsletter:** Jesse and Syd are working on an end of the year newsletter to be sent out this year. Jesse circulated the proposal received from Riparian video project which is included in the 2024 budget for communications and the County grant. The products will be useful at many venues throughout the county.
- 5) **Old Business:**
- a) **Review 2024 Budget Items:** Robert went through the budget, with the DPR requests included. Robert will circulate the final budget via email, and the Board will vote via email.
- 6) **New Business:** None
- Jesse entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:16pm. Motion made by Hank, seconded by Steve. Meeting adjourned.
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### **2024 Board Meeting Schedule—Third Thursday of the Month at 10AM**

January 18  
February 15  
March 21  
April 18  
May 16  
June 30  
July 18  
August 15  
September 19  
October 17  
November 21  
December 19

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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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