

Minutes from the TCTU Spring Meeting Southeast Rally (Camp Ton-A-Wandah) May 2, 2004

Meeting called to order at 9:45 AM - Attendees: Steve Brown, Bill Haggard, Dick Geiger, Trish Patterson, Mark Spangler, Steve Fry, Joe Hatton, Perry Rindfleisch, Jim Montfort, Rick Murphee, Tom Eustis

Old Business:

Bill Haggard presented draft budget. TCTU is in a position of deficit spending; areas where expenditures could be trimmed were discussed. Bill asked the Council to consider a single TCTU banquet vs. individual chapter banquets. Possible ideas included holding over a weekend (2-3 days), having working sessions and activity sessions. Steve Fry suggested a TCTU raffle table at individual chapter banquets; the Cumberland Chapter preferred the flat 5% payment method that was proposed at the last Council meeting. No consensus was reached. Decision on budget and areas to increase revenues tabled until next TCTU meeting.

New Business:

Following the budget discussion, and in response to the question "what do we need the money for and what is TCTU supposed to be doing?" Steve Brown indicated a need for a TCTU Strategic Plan. All attendees supported a strategic plan effort. Perry Nearly all attendees indicated a willingness to participate in a 1-2 day meeting to draft said strategic plan. Steve Brown indicated he wanted to request participation by a few other individuals not at the Rally, but who had been active in TCTU in the past 2 years. Target dates for the strategic plan session are June 26-27; Bill Haggard took the action to find a place for the work session. Information will be disseminated to all on attendee list.

Russ Schnitzer, TU National, offered to support travel and lodging expenses with TU National funds and to "facilitate" the meeting. Russ will provide electronic samples of strategic plans to Steve Brown for distribution to attendees for reading prior to the working session. Steve Brown emphasized the importance of reading the sample plans prior to meeting so that our time is effectively spent. Steve requested that after each attendee has read the sample strategic plans, he would appreciate receiving a draft vision statement from each individual. There will be a teleconference call prior to the June work session.

Steve Brown indicated that election of officers for the Council is approaching. He requested volunteers; Dick Geiger and Tom Eustis agreed to serve on the committee with the possibility of additional individuals to be named. Steve also indicated that Ken Chase may be willing to serve on the nominating committee.

Perry Rindfleisch suggested that the Council reconsidering the need for the Chapter Committee because National now has the capacity and a good bit of the responsibility to provide support to the Chapters. Specific discussion concerning a subcommittee on grant writing followed. It was noted that Dave Rogers at National is more focused on grant administration, as opposed to supporting Chapters in pursuing grants. In addition, National is focused on pursuing large HQ-oriented grants, not smaller private or state grants. It was determined that Chapters and the Council need to pursue grants with the local and state agencies.

During the Stewardship Committee's allotted time, Tom Massey from NCTU made a brief presentation on the "Road to Nowhere" on the north side of Lake Fontana in the GSMNP. He indicated that the NPS Plan does not outline a road. The EIS process is scheduled to be concluded in the next year with six (6) alternatives currently identified. One of the options includes a \$52 million cash settlement; the lowest estimated cost to build the road is \$152 million. U.S. Senator Alexander does not support building the road. Tom also suggested that TCTU members visit the website (<http://www.northshoreroad.info>) for details regarding schedule and alternatives and highly recommends TCTU members provide input to the EIS.

Chapters were requested to identify briefly (1) if there was a need(s) from the Council or (2) there were any issues/problems. No chapters indicated any needs or problems that required action by the Council. Chapters took the opportunity to update the other attendees on the activities and successes since the last Council meeting.

Announcements/Schedule Meetings

The Strategic Plan working session is tentatively scheduled for June 26-27 for a location to be named. The next Coldwater meeting will be held on Saturday, July 24, 2004 at the TVA Towers in Knoxville. The next TCTU meeting is at 1PM on Saturday, July 24, 2004 after the Coldwater meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 PM.