

# Minutes of the OMH Executive Board Meeting

June 1, 2019

## BOARD MEETING

**Executive Board members present:** Joy Linker, Vanessa Edgar, Bill Stanley

**Attending:** Marilyn Hall, Merchandise Sales

**Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order by President Joy Linker at Cortez Pavilion in Hot Springs Village at 4:15 PM

**President's Remarks:** Purpose of the meeting was to go over the results of the OMH Survey that Vice President, Vanessa Edgar developed and administered on the OMH website.

Joy brought up club meetings held at the Garland County Library. In the past, club meetings were held in the Garland County Library auditorium every other month. In December, the President must reserve the dates for the following year. This past season, we were unable to secure the auditorium for the third Thursday every other month. The club has slowly changing this traditional format. The September meeting was changed to the Welcome Back hike/picnic at Cortez Pavilion in the Village. This past March, the meeting was held at Smokin'N Style. The meeting that was scheduled to take place in May was changed to Year End Picnic on June 1<sup>st</sup> at Cortez Pavilion in the Village. The question was asked for the Board to consider the sites for next year's OMH club meetings. Do we want to break away from the Garland County Library and only hold the November and January meetings there?

**Vice President/Program Chair:**

Vanessa created a survey for our OMH membership. The results are as follows:

### Summary Results of OMH Survey 2019

- The total number of responses was 133 which is about 42% of the club's membership (good response rate)
- There was a good cross section of newer members to 'old timers' who responded:
  - Over ten years 44, ten to five years 23, under five years 60
- Most of the members found out about the club from friends or word of mouth, some from the newspaper and a few found the club thru the internet (search, website, facebook)
- All the members who responded read the weekly hike flash (good to know)
- About 63% use social media, mostly Facebook – but less than half use it daily (Yes – 84, Daily 40, weekly or few times a week 26, rarely 18)
- Hike participation in last 3 months:
  - None 50, one to five times 54, six to ten times 22, more than 10 times 7
- Main reason don't participate more (in order from highest to lowest number of responses):
  - Distance (don't live near central AR)

- Busy (other interests or still working)
- Health Issues
- Don't stop to enjoy nature (hike too fast, hikes too long or challenging)
- Issues with club (car pool fees, structure, emphasis on HSV)

Majority of reasons were first three listed which is not something the club can address, only a few comments were negative

- Every volunteered with club? Yes – 70 No – 61
  - Willing to help (coordinate/plan) overnight trip? Yes – 12 (a few of these had never volunteered), Maybe – 43, No – 12
- Results indicate we need to encourage members to help with overnight trips

- What does the club not offer?
  - occasionally offer other outdoor activities (kayaking, biking, backpacking, etc.)
  - hiking other days (besides Thursday & Saturday)
  - more overnight hiking trips
  - slowing down on trails or hikes for slower members
  - cocktails along the trail (best answer!!)

Most members happy with what club offers, continue to offer occasional float trips and other outdoor activities – encourage members to suggest activities they would like to plan for club

- New trail for club (see attached list of suggestions)
- Enjoy most about OMH:
  - hiking buds (people & people to hike with)
  - hiking (variety & great locations)
  - well organized (hike flash, hike leaders, etc.)
  - overnight trips & meetings

Lots of great comments about the members, the hiking, the club and having others to hike with

#### New trails:

- More Ozark Highland trails (2)
- Cossatot & Goat trail
- Rattlesnake Ridge (2)
- More sections of Northwoods (2)
- Buffalo River
- Southern AR
- Eastern AR
- 3 to 6 miles in or close to Hot Springs
- Overnight in Missouri
- Anything near Horseshoe Canyon Ranch
- Crooked Creek (2), North Fork of Crooked Creek
- Little Missouri
- Eagle Rock Loop

- Sugar Creek (2)
- Black Fork Mountain
- Alum Cove National Bridge & Pedestal Rocks scenic area
- Overnight to Oklahoma Wichita National Refuge & Beavers Bend State park
- Seen trails on TV "Exploring AR" many the club has not taken
- Upper Kiamichi Wilderness on the OT

David Blankenship had asked Vanessa to bring a summary of issues that members felt the club could improve on:

Negative comments:

Seems like there is a group (or groups) within the club – not welcoming  
 Unable to participate in overnight trips and don't find the local hikes challenging or exciting  
 Hikes have too many people & don't stop to enjoy nature  
 Hikes too long & not enough time to enjoy nature (a couple of comments like this)  
 Groups too big & hike at a pace that leaves little joy  
 Repetitive hikes  
 People in the club don't seem accepting of new members, the hikes seem like forced marches

Positive comments:

Awesome people  
 good friends (at least a dozen comments that include these words)  
 people are great  
 friendly, smart & active people  
 fellowship  
 variety of hike offerings  
 being outdoors  
 great hiking locations  
 hiking & the lunch/dinners after  
 great hiking  
 great hiking with good friends  
 making new friends

One of the comments stated was that club events seemed to be taking place more in Hot Springs Village than Hot Springs. Suggestions were made for possible future Fall and Spring picnics to take place outside of the Village. Avery Dam Pavilion was one of the sites recommended. Also, in the past, the club held the Christmas Party in Hot Springs.

The meeting was called at 4:50 PM as club members started to arrive for picnic.

Respectfully submitted for Debbie VanVeghel, Joy Linker