

Meeting Minutes
Red Hill Council Meeting - Chris Beebe's House
May 5, 2005 (Cinco de Mayo)

Chair Farrar called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m.

Members present: Scott Harris, Jim Breasted, Chris Beebe, Jim Neu, Davis Farrar.

The Council discussed the issue of future status of the Red Hill Council and considered the issue of the Council and BLM being on the same page with regard to Red Hill. A consensus was expressed that additional Red Hill trails without additional public access points would not remedy the "crowding" situation occurring on Red Hill. A member expressed an interest in seeing more trails (variety) to benefit the local user population. The topic of additional access to the area was mentioned as a need. It was suggested that the Council should pursue maintenance and upkeep of what is already there. Access has not been aggressively pursued by the Council or BLM. That (access) should happen next.

Frustration was expressed about the lack of forward thinking by BLM about the increasing use and interest in Red Hill. BLM is not realistic to think that by avoiding promotion or advertising of Red Hill that nothing will change. This frustration has caused a number of Council members to feel like they have better things to do with their time than butt heads with BLM. The question was posed how does the Council best manage their relationship with BLM in a proactive way. It was noted that bigger horizons were envisioned.

A perception was expressed that BLM views the Council as a maintenance/cleanup committee instead of a planning/trail construction organization. Discussion took place on that issue.

A member said that he likes doing the actual trail and maintenance work. The continuing unresolved discussions that are part of the "process" burns him out.

It was suggested that the Council ask BLM what they would like the Red Hill Council to do in the long-term. Generally, feelings were mixed between frustration about the inability to continue developing bigger plans, future new trail projects and the desire to focus on maintenance/care of the Red Hill area as the area of emphasis.

Access was identified as the biggest challenge facing the organization and BLM. This is an important piece and a huge benefit to the public.

Interest was expressed in looking at Barber Gulch as a potential trail development area option.

The following conclusions were agreed to by the Council members.

One or more additional access points are very important issues and should be one of the highest priorities to pursue.

Work should be completed on the projects that have already been planned and/or started.

When these two tasks have been accomplished of the Council should revisit their mission/purpose. It may be that Red Hill is considered "built out" and the Council should fall to a maintenance function. Other options might include bike patrols, membership, and tweaking what is already there.

Following up on the suggestion by BLM, the Council should schedule a community forum to obtain input on Red Hill from area residents and users. A proposed meeting date was June 9 at Carbondale town hall. Davis will contact Dorothy to discuss the date and the topic of a community forum. The forum should provide a vehicle for the Council and BLM to hear from the public instead of using a survey for that purpose. The forum would be more efficient and cost-effective now. Logistics for this effort will include: broad-based advertising, posting at locations in the Valley and at the trailhead, developing an agenda for the meeting, refreshments, and the consensus was to have the Council facilitate the meeting. It is very important that BLM attends and it should include Dorothy, Brian and a special invitation to Jamie Connell. Davis will e-mail the Council members after discussing the issue with Dorothy.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.