

Grand County Wilderness Group Board Meeting, October 7, 2024

Board members present:

Andy

Monica

Holly

Joining by Zoom: Kaylee and Dana

Guest: Al

Meeting was started at 6:30 with a discussion with Al about updating the GCWG.org web page to a more modern look and feel. Al said that would be possible with the same web page, but he would need different tools and it would be time consuming.

The Board has agreed to look at 'hiring' a web design company to do this for us. Al agreed that he would help vet the companies to make sure we found someone who could do a good job.

Al mentioned Firebird Design as a possible candidate. He has worked with them on the Yoga web page.

We also discussed changing from Vertical Response (VR) e-mails to G-mail. Andy demonstrated an example of the last e-mail Mike Braddy had sent using Headers and Footers. The e-mail that was sent looked very similar to what Mike had sent. Andy and Kaylee had created these templates to use so creating an e-mail would be very easy. Also, Groups can be created to send e-mails to All the group or just the board or any other subset. We looked at the Board Group they had created and made some changes to have the correct members. Using one recipient with BCC to all other members preserves e-mail address security. The template used for e-mails will need to have a reply to section because if you just reply, it goes to the GCWG mailbox only.

The five members of the Board voted to make the change. We will need to discuss with Mike Braddy what he needs to do to change. Kaylee has already discussed with Bob Saint.

Dana also provided the name of another web design company that we may want to consider.

JR Brick Communications (jrbrick.com)..They would not charge a non-profit, but the group would have to pay the Squarespace hosting fee. The business plan is \$276 per year – paid annually.

The Board will investigate these two possibilities and check whether others are available. We will ask Al to advise us on the choice.

Kaylee mentioned that one feature we will want to investigate is the AI functionality. For example, as people are paying their dues, the names are entered into a form and then all contact information is automatically updated. The roster is Google Docs would update automatically.

Andy said that the Forest Service has announced that for 2025 there will be no seasonal employees. This is not just in Colorado, but across the nation. This will leave a massive hole in the FS capabilities. GCWG will need to look at the best ways we can help this coming summer.

Monica is working on the Counts from Monarch. She had tallied the reported engagements for the year and there were 22,000 reported. This is a huge number because it is just engagements, not the total of people who signed in.... or nowhere near the people who just walk in. It was a VERY busy year.

There were only 9 backpack checkouts. She will take the extra books, etc that she has at her house to Monarch for storage for the backpacks.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30