

**Minutes of the Board of Directors of
Restore Hetch Hetchy
September 9, 2023**

I. ATTENDANCE

- A. **Board Members:** Mark Cederborg, Jim Fousekis, Ann Hayden, Mark Palley, Craig Reynolds, Lucho Rivera, Mecia Serafino, Virginia Stock, and Pete Van Kuran (all but Jim and Pete on zoom)
- B. **Staff:** Spreck Rosekrans (ED), Lisa Domitrovich (Development Consultant) and Julene Freitas (Administrator)

II. ADMINISTRATIVE

- A. **Minutes.** Ann moves, Virginia seconds, all agree to approve May 6, 2023 minutes.

III. BUDGET AND FINANCE

- A. **2023 3d Q Income.** Actual (\$196K) to Budget (\$156K), \$40K above. Mainly due to Dorothy Bobbitt's 100K bequest.
- B. **2023 3d Q Expenses.** Actual (\$226K) to Budget (\$266 K), \$50K below
- C. **Current Cash Balance.** About \$350K

IV. DEVELOPMENT AND MARKETING

- A. **Lisa's Presentation on Development Efforts:**
 - 1. **Foundations:** Looked at the existing and potential foundations. Two factors matter. (a) Affinity – do they care of Hetch Hetchy. (b) Capacity – do they have the means to make a significant gift.
 - (a) We identified foundations that accept queries (many don't) and sent out 5 proposals. The most promising was the Conservancy Alliance. We focused on Keeping Promises, in that it has achievable objections in the time horizon that foundations consider. All rejected; the Alliance said it was focused on restoration (on 5 year time line), not public access.
 - (b) Donors to Foundations. We looked at lists of the foundation-donors to these organizations and identified

those who have potential interests in Hetch Hetchy. All of them did not accept unsolicited queries. We made polite inquiries. Got no response from all but two.

- (c) Jim recommends that staff circulate the names of foundation board members and donors to the board. Lisa and Spreck indicate they did but nobody said they knew anyone.
- (d) Soliciting foundations where we do not have connections is unlikely to be fruitful.

2. **Existing Donors:**

- (a) Hold Fast Collective: The new Patagonia trust is a key contributor and we got a \$5,000 contribution this year. We have also gotten \$5,000 from Dan Emmett, who is on the board of Hold Fast.
- (b) Lisa recommends building relationships with existing donors.

3. **Legacies:** We consulted with Mike Pohlman, who liked the current bequest page of the Legacy Circle RHH site, and had some suggestions. All but one of the bequests in the last 5 years were past supporters who had not said they were donors.

4. **New Projects:**

- (a) Crankstart Foundation manages several family foundations, and was founded by Michael Moritz. Lisa has explored reaching out to them, and Craig has suggestions for approaching Moritz.
- (b) Spreck and Lisa put together a slide deck for a potential major donor. Craig recommends more details to back up the projects and who is doing what.
- (c) Lisa recommends building the broader small-donor network, from which many of our major donors have come.

B. **Annual Dinner on October 7, 2023.** The Berkeley City Club holds 200 or so people. Many of the Board Members have committed to a table.

Only 18 individuals have purchased tickets, and Patagonia has declined to attend. Ann, Mark P and Pete volunteer to make three calls to members. Spreck offered half-price tickets to non-profit groups. Mark P suggests offering half-price tickets informally to members to fill up the already-sold tables. Ann reports that Karla Nemeth, the Director of Cal. Water Resources, will be at her table. (Thank you, Ann!)

- C. On-Line Petition: Spreck reports that more than 800 persons have signed the “Keeping Promises” petition.
- D. Targeted YouTube and Facebook/Instagram Ads: the number of hits were initially strong but dropped off quickly.

V. GROUNDWATER RECHARGE

- A. SFPUC Presentation: SFPUC and BAWSA have invited Spreck to make a presentation on ground water banking. Some environmental organizations are skeptical, wanting to keep the river flows going even in wet years.

VI. KEEPING PROMISES

- A. **Water Puffery.** SFPUC advertises on Facebook that the water is the best tasting in the world. Spreck did a small taste-test comparison with EBMUD, and EBMUD won! Spreck is planning something more representative.
- B. **Legislation.** The Whitewater Coalition scheduled a meeting with Congr. McClintock, but asked Spreck not to attend. McClintock’s office still remains interested. Congr. Huffman is most interested on the Democratic side.
- C. **Meeting with NPS.** On 6/11/23, Spreck, Lucho, Mark P and Mecia (on zoom) met with Yosemite staff (Superintendent Muldoon demurred but sent her Chief of Staff, Joe Meyer, Ed Dunlavey, Hetch Hetchy liaison, and others). Mark P, Lucho and Mark C report significant albeit modest gain:
 - 1. **Hours.** Before 9/11, the park did not restrict hours at Hetch Hetchy. After designating the reservoir as a security concern, the park limited access to daytime hours. For several years, they limited the hours further, to 8 to 5, which severely restricted access, since day visitors only could get through the gate at

Camp Mather at 8 am and had to be back by 5 pm (reducing visiting time by an hour). After meeting with us last year and consulting with the Department of Reclamation about dam security, they publicly restored access hours to sunrise to sunset year round. The consultants advised the Park that keeping the public out was counter-productive from a security standpoint because more eyes at the site limit opportunities for mischief. Confidentially, Joe reported that the park is not closing the gate at Camp Mather at all on a trial basis, with a plan to make it permanent if they don't encounter problems. They already can remove disruptive individuals. Joe said we could take some credit for the hour improvements, but asked that we not publicize the trial gate program, and we agree we wouldn't. Lucho reports that the expanded hours have made it much more convenient for the climbing community to get to climbing sites.

2. **Signage.** The state has placed the signs on Highway 120 as Mark C had pressed them to. Ed (the liaison) has inquired to Mark about other potential signs.
 3. **Cell Service.** Ed said cell service is no longer a security concern, though they are working to secure Starlink service for purposes of assisting visitor safety (rescue efforts).
 4. **Backpacker's Campground.** In response to our concerns about the conditions of the campground, park staff visited the campground and noted the lack of potable water. Ed said they are asking the city to pay to install potable water in the campground as part of their contract-renewal discussions and in the longer term may drop the backpacker-only-use restriction.
 5. **Contract Negotiations.** Ed declined to share the latest draft of the contract with us, claiming it is confidential, but suggested we make suggestions for changes, which Spreck did in a formal letter on 6/19/23, copied to SFPUC. Neither the park nor SFPUC has commented on the letter. Mark P volunteered to submit a FOIA request for the draft contract.
- D. **Petition to Dept. of Interior on Access:** Spreck has circulated a draft petition. Mark P is reviewing it. We have run it by several law firms, that to date have declined to represent us. The draft petition is directed at NPS's buying into SFPUC's demands for extra measures to preserve SF's filtration exemption.

- E. **Petition Plan Approval:** Pete moves, Jim second, all approve resolution to authorize Spreck to file an access petition with the U.S. Department of the Interior and National Park Service.

VII. CALENDAR

- A. Next Board Meeting is February 17, 2024.