

Flagstaff Trails Initiative  
Education and Outreach Sub-Committee Meeting  
May 19th 5:30pm - 7:00pm  
Virtual Meeting  
Join Zoom Meeting via computer: <https://zoom.us/j/4192371457>  
Dial-in: 1 (253) 215-8782 Meeting ID: 419 237 1457

Participants: Artec Durham, Heidi, Tyler Nelson, Bryan Burton, Nate Peters, Nat White, Justin Inglis, Lisa Clark

Action Items:

- Add to event list and edit any events that have been postponed or cancelled (**ALL**)
- **Next meeting: Wednesday, June 17th, 5:30-7PM**

Updates:

*Board of Directors*

- Currently being reviewed and voted on (each organization/agency in the Core Team will get 5 votes)
- 17 applications

*E&O Work to Date*

- Newsletter sent out; have been posting on Facebook
- No new grant applications, but applying for money from Catena Foundation (Mike Wight)
  - FLYRS already working with Catena
  - Would be worthwhile for FLYRS to coordinate grant applications with FTI

*COVID*

- Places are starting to open back up
- Parks & Rec is starting to open up outdoor facilities
- Some places have already opened, and others are waiting much longer (Lowell Observatory not even considering opening before July)
  - FLYRS has cancelled into July
  - CDC just released new guidelines for youth programs
- Many events have been cancelled
  - Summer Series was cancelled
  - Expo was moved into late July
  - Most people are really nervous about liability; in many cases, the cost is too high to postpone

*Others*

- Currently unauthorized trail building happening on Observatory Mesa along Rt 66 by the train tracks (loop trail)
  - City will be using FTI as a resource to head this off, as it was likely done with the best of intentions; keep the message positive

- Nat ran this trail and mapped it out; parts of the trail were finished on May 9, but the whole trail is a mile and a half - well-built and designed trail but is on City and Lowell property

### Outreach

- May newsletter was well put-together
- Finalized the plan for the June 2 newsletter
  - Etiquette Highlight: unauthorized trails
    - Purpose of trails in general
    - Importance of designated trails (expertise, approval, maintenance, trail system connections)
    - Unauthorized trails cause damage
    - Focus on respect; NEPA process (ecological and cultural resource impacts)
    - End with a plug for FTI and why we're here (if trails should become authorized, if unsure whether it is authorized)
- Added to the Facebook plan through June 11th
- Future topics
  - New issues with trash dumping in the forest
  - Need to use "unauthorized" trails rather than "social"
    - Possibly create a strongly worded section of the website giving information about FTI's stance on unauthorized trails and why it matters, or use this as a headline for a future newsletter

### Moving Forward

#### *General*

- Still have an [event list document](#), add to it if any events are happening, cancelled, postponed
- Follow Jack Welch's email list
- Could start doing small group meet-ups/events (10 or less); will wait until the next meeting

#### *REI Recreate Responsibly*

- REI inviting FTI to get involved; everyone was in agreement to move forward with it
- National coalition with other non-profits and REI to share out information about recreating safely
  - Not REI branded, but intended to be a resource
- Share link on Facebook on June 4th, add to a June newsletter

#### Etiquette Campaign - Ad-Hoc Committee

- Campaign is a lot of work, Justin is hoping for much more help in putting this together and ideally a group that can self-run
- Hoping a board member will chair this committee
- Directly ask for volunteers who have a strong background in the topic

- Make sure all of the user groups are represented or at least consulted
- Put this on hold; this is a good idea, just maybe not right now

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