

Friends of Snow Canyon State Park Directors' Meeting

December 11, 2025

Place: Snow Canyon State Park

Attending Board Members: George Otott, Alan Risenhoover, Ellen Nathan, Kristen Comella, Barry Neff, Don Drabant, Phyllis Winkler, Lori Capshaw, and Linda Neff.
Excused absences: Sandy Nelson and Jim Bily

The meeting was called to order by President Otott at 3:00 pm.

Part I. Written / Oral Reports

- Minutes: The minutes of the November 13, 2025, meeting were approved unanimously.
- Treasurer's Report: The written report was approved unanimously with one minor correction.
- Membership Report: The written report was approved unanimously following some clarification on the number 30-day vs. 90-day overdue memberships.
- Trail Stewards' Report: The written report was approved unanimously and is attached as an addendum. **Action:** With Phylis' departure, a new Board Member will need to take over trail steward coordination.
- Docents Report: Don indicated that a few more docents are needed. He explained that the docent program currently has 2 areas of emphasis: working with school field trips and working with visitors through pop-up displays. **Action:** Develop process for recruiting new docents.

Part II. FoSC Business Updates

- Park Update: Kristen reported that the formal designation of Snow Canyon State Park as an Urban Night Sky Place was scheduled for December 21st. Kristen hopes to schedule a ceremony recognizing the designation on April 17 or 18th, 2026. She also noted that the Park was over the Thanksgiving Day high visitation period.
Action: Consider a Friends event associated with Dark Sky designation.
- Events: Lori reported that the Desert Homes Hike went very well. She indicated a number of potential future events were being worked on, including yoga, geology, Native flutes, etc. George indicated he would check on an event on the results of the recent Johnson Farm excavation. Written report is attached.
- Website, Facebook, and Communications: Web written report is attached. Facebook going ok. **Action:** Identify a new Facebook administrator due to Phyllis' departure.

No new communications since last meeting. **Action:** Alan indicated he would draft and send out a year-end giving email to all members. Don provided an example of a previous one.

- Fundraising: Don continues to meet with members of the local business community and nearby resorts to seek support for Snow Canyon. He hopes to work on obtaining several grants in 2026. **Action:** Need to identify Board Members to help write future grant proposals.

Part III. Business Discussion Items

Old Business

- The Board discussed and approved unanimously a guidance statement prepared to respond to requests of support from Advocacy Groups. The approved statement is attached as an addendum. **Action:** Guidance statement needs to be attached to the Board Member handbook.
- The Board deferred action on considering Lisa Kindred as a new Board member, and will review her qualifications at a later date based on her availability and continued interest.

New Business

- The Board reviewed and discussed the qualifications of Jenean Campos as a potential new Board Member. Several Board members who know Jenean spoke positively of her qualifications. Based on the discussion, the Board voted unanimously to add her to the Board. Don will inform her and invite her to the January meeting.

General Discussion

The Board took a moment at the end of the meeting to recognize the many contributions Phyllis has made to the Board, Friends of Snow Canyon, and the State Park. Similarly, the Board thanked George for his leadership as President, and all his work and contributions over the last 3 years.

Action item summary:

1. Identify a Board Member to take over trail steward coordination.
2. Develop process for recruiting new docents.
3. Consider Friends event associated with Dark Sky designation.
4. Identify a new Facebook administrator.
5. Send out a year-end giving email to all members.
6. Identify Board Members to help write future grant proposals.
7. Guidance statement needs to be attached to the Board Member handbook.

Written Reports

Trail Steward Report (Phyllis):

SPECIAL PROJECT Upper Galoot Tortoise Walk December 1, 10 am - Closing off illegal trails leading north and south is the focus

HIKE WITH JESSE. Friday December 12, 10 am - Meet at the north end of Pioneer Names TH, exploring northward up Hackberry Wash. Open forum to have questions answered, and share holiday greetings and camaraderie with fellow Trail Stewards!

TRAIL OF THE MONTH Pioneer Names - One visit requested to remove graffiti, illegal trails and the usual rock work realigning the trail boundaries encouraging visitors to please! Stay on the path.

Web Report (Sandy):

Just did a bit of a clean up of our News page and added a photo with a bit of verbiage about visiting the park in winter and that should there be snow, it is quite magical. Removed info about the road closures due to marathon and info about the flag display. Removed a few other things and cleaned up the entire page. If there is "news" you would like to see featured, please let me know.

Google analytics: Usage the last 30 days has been quite slow, much less than previous 30 days. Big drops on pages such as Events, Donate, Sign-in/Renew. It has been a quiet period for Friends with events cancelled due to weather and such and the slow December event period which explains that reduction. Should we send out a seasonal "ask" or "thanks for your help, see what Friends has accomplished" email within the next few weeks I would expect and hope for a spike in donations and/or memberships/ renewals.

As to security on the site: (Word Fence information) Last month I mentioned that most of the blocked hits were from China. This month they were from the Netherlands. Always a bit interesting.

Events Report (Lori):

Upcoming events:

Urban Park Night Sky designation event
Educational Event at Ivins City Hall
Geology Hike
Music Event — Native American flutes
Star party with telescope

Previous Events:

Yoga in the Park with John Yohman, Thursday, November 20th at Upper Galoot.
Cancelled due to weather.

Desert Homes Hike with Gemma, Snow Canyon's Naturalist Aide, Friday, November 21st in Johnson Canyon. Great turn out and a success.

Guidance Statement for Requests of Support from Advocacy Groups

In general, the Friends of Snow Canyon will not support or oppose the positions of other non-profits, associations, citizen groups, or similar advocacy groups. Upon a request for support or opposition, the Board will inform these groups that it does not adopt such positions and refer them to the Friends and Park websites, as appropriate, for additional information. Consistent with its Mission and at the discretion of the Board, background or educational information about Friends and Snow Canyon State Park may be shared with such groups.

In no case will the Friends of Snow Canyon limit its Members as citizens from supporting or opposing the positions of such groups.