

## **Friends of Snow Canyon State Park Directors' Meeting January 8, 2026**

**Place: Snow Canyon State Park**

**Attending Board Members:** Lori Capshaw, Alan Risenhoover, Barry Neff, Linda Neff, Sandy Nelson, Don Drabant, Ellen Nathan, Jenean Campos, Jim Bily, Kristen Comella

The meeting was called to order by President Risenhoover at 3:00. Jenean Campos was introduced as a new board member.

### **Part I. Written / Oral Reports**

1. Alan suggested, and the board approved, that in the future reports for Docents and Trail Stewards be verbal, not written.
2. Minutes: The minutes of the December 11, 2025 meeting were approved unanimously.
3. Treasurer's Report: The report was approved with no objection. Linda noted that major donations were down by \$20,000 from 2024 while membership contributions were flat. Discussion ensued about ways to increase membership, possibly including a membership drive. Renaming the various membership levels was revisited and a new vote taken, rescinding the name changes. **Action:** Sandy and Don will review the old names and suggest appropriate nomenclature for higher tiers at the next meeting.
4. Membership Report: Written report, approved. There was discussion about the need to appropriately and timely recognize and nurture donors. Barry noted that the membership card that online joiners can print is wonky. **Action:** New President Risenhoover committed to sending thank yous to all donors at or above \$100. **Action:** Barry will fix the membership card printing if easy to do. If it is difficult, there was the thought to drop the cards altogether as they serve no real purpose.
5. Trail Stewards' Report: Jenean will take over the liaison slot from Phyllis.
6. Docents Report: Don said that docent training scheduled for January had to be postponed until February. Student field trips also start up again in February. There is a need for more docent volunteers.
7. Facebook: Jenean will take this over from Phyllis.
8. Web Report: Written report from Sandy attached.
9. Park Update: Kristen noted that weed spraying for mustard will occur in February in conjunction with a grant the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve secured. Also in February, work on the West Canyon vault toilet should begin. Kristen reviewed her preliminary funding requests for 2026. Initial board reaction was positive with the exception of a contribution to help pay for supervision of a mustard removal project. Both the board and Kristen agreed that promotion of the event to our members was a better way to show support. **Action:** Kristen will finalize her requests for a vote at the next meeting.

10. Events: Written report attached. Kristen said that Black Desert has meeting rooms that they might make available to us. She will forward contact information to Lori.
11. Mail-chimp: The year end solicitation for contributions had a high open rate but did not generate much money.
12. Fund-raising: Don met with Patrick Manning of Black Desert who wanted a list of possible uses of any donations. They will meet again. The Kish Foundation said to formally ask again early in 2026 as their 2025 donations had already been committed. Sandy and Don are meeting this month to strategize.

## **Part II. FOSC Business Updates.**

1. New Board Member: Lori has not heard from her candidate but will follow up.
2. Urban Dark Sky designation: We will assist with the Park's event to introduce this new designation in a capacity yet to be determined. Kristen will get more information from Cheyenne.
3. Board roles: Jenean will take over Trail Stewards and Facebook from Phyllis. Alan will take the lead on grant writing. We need a Vice President and, in two months, a Secretary.
4. Docents: The Docent program needs more volunteers but those filling the role require careful vetting. We need a process for both soliciting for volunteers and then fairly vetting candidates. Kristen will work with Cheyenne to firm up the needs.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45.

Next meeting on February 12 at 3:00 at Park Headquarters.

## **Written Reports**

### **WEB REPORT (Sandy)**

Checking with Google analytics this am I learned that our usage declined over the last 30 days. Given the holiday period that does not come as a surprise. There were a couple of "peaks" around the middle of December (probably when Alan sent out the Holiday email) and at the end of the month. The holiday letter did generate some donations, though not a lot.

Here is a tally of "engagement" as provided by analytics. It is good to see that the donate and renew pages are being utilized! From a fundraising perspective I believe we need to find more ways to get people to join and donate.

Spring brings more events, more people in town, wildflower and critter inquiries. We should see an increase in web usage.

Top 10 Page title by User engagement  
Dec 9, 2025–Jan 7, 2026

PAGE TITLE	USER ENGAGEMENT
Donate – Friends of Snow Canyon	28m 37s
Sign In/Renew – Friends of Snow Canyon	22m 23s
Critters – Friends of Snow Canyon	17m 38s
Join Us – Friends of Snow Canyon	17m 10s
Board Members – Friends of Snow Canyon	14m 09s
Friends of Snow Canyon	14m 04s
NEWS ! – Friends of Snow Canyon	9m 54s
Core Plants – Friends of Snow Canyon	8m 13s
Events – Friends of Snow Canyon	7m 09s
Trail Stewards – Friends of Snow Canyon	5m 24s

I have been updating our board page and will continue to do so as we get new members and sadly say “good-bye” to others.

Minutes are posted each month after they are approved.

## EVENTS (Lori)

### Upcoming proposed events:

- Educational Event (**Jurassic World: Could It Become a Reality?**) at Ivins City Hall with Jerry Harris. Available dates: Monday, Jan. 19 (MLK Day) or Monday, Jan. 26, Friday, Jan. 30. Space needs to be confirmed at Ivins City Hall.
  - Jerry Harris is a prominent paleontologist, particularly known for his work at the St. George Dinosaur Discovery Site in Utah, where he

studies [dinosaur footprints](#) (ichnology) to understand [dinosaur behavior, anatomy, and intelligence](#), He has also served as a faculty member, teaching courses on geology and dinosaurs at Utah Tech University.

- **Geology Hike with George Ottot.** Available dates: February.

### **Potential ideas**

- Educational Event. Learn from Todd Prince who is teaching a class at Utah Tech about Archeology and the history of the Southwest.
- Possible event with Andrew Milner and his recent award
  - February Star party(?)
  - April 17/18 Urban Park Night Sky designation event
  - Music Event — Native American flutes
  - March, Yoga in the Park