

Minutes of UFOP SW Chapter Meeting on October 16, 2019

This was the first meeting organized by DASIA (Dixie Arizona Strip Interpretative Association) using our normal, existing venue, but arranging for a speaker who from now on is being paid to come and give a presentation under the auspices of "GREATER ZION LECTURE SERIES." The other two presenters are then SGDS (St. George Dinosaur Discovery Site), and UFOP (Utah Friends of Paleontology). See logo below.

Andrew Milner is from now on the advisor for all three groups with respect to finding a speaker if necessary. The presentations are to be held on the third Wednesday of every month, if possible. And are open to the general public. During the summer months, activities will be planned as well, but not by UFOP. More details about any changes will be given later on.

This evening we had our UFOP business meeting from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. There were 20 members in attendance. Fred started the meeting (Bill, Alan, and Andrew were absent) explaining the situation: that we were close to resolving the officers' issue, and the rest depended on the group. Steve Stephenson offered to be president, Fred Overkamp vice-president and after some discussion, Craig Morgan, treasurer. Nobody offered to take over as secretary, so I am staying on as interim secretary for now, even though I resigned the position as of May 15, 2019. The 20 attendees voted us all in, so we can announce that our chapter will NOT be discontinued.

We are also planning a Christmas potluck dinner on Thursday, December 12. Steve and Sally's clubhouse is again available for free.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, November 20. The speaker will be Brian Triddle, ex-manager of the BLM Field Office and an expert on public lands which will be the topic of his presentation.

Dr. Josh Bonde was our speaker for this evening. Dr. Bonde is the Curator of Paleontology and Director of Conservation and Research at the Las Vegas Natural History Museum in Las Vegas, Nevada. He is a born and raised Nevadan, originally from Fallon, NV. He did his BS in Biology at the University of Nevada-Reno; his MS in Earth Sciences from Montana State University-Bozeman; and his PhD in Geoscience from UNLV. His research focuses on the interaction between plate tectonics and life in the intermountain west through the past 550 million years. The title of his presentation was:

"Build it, and they will come! The unexpected need of a fossil lab in southern Nevada and adventures which have followed."

He gave a passionate overview of the fascinating development of the Las Vegas Natural History Museum: how it progressed since it was founded in 1991, how it managed to get financial/free help from the city and elsewhere, the excellent relationship with the BLM who is sending all the fossils found on their lands to their lab, how the lab expanded while training volunteers inside the museum and out in the field, getting associated with other museums —like the Smithsonian Museum and the State Museum in Carson City--, and attracting 100,000 visitors a year (85% local to Southern Nevada of which 35% are school groups), all the while stressing the educational side of things and not the touristic one.

He also described a few field trips into the Nevada desert so enthusiastically that we came away with: It would be a nice field trip for our group...maybe so! There were of course a good many pertinent pictures on the screen to look at as well.

The presentation was concluded at 8:15 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Elisabeth Nipperus

interim Secretary UFOP SW Chapter

October 27, 2019