

UFOP Gastonia Chapter — July 28, 2021 Minutes

With fourteen attendees, we held our first in-person meeting since February, 2020 using social distancing, with masks required only for those not fully vaccinated (per Grand County rules for their meeting room). We currently have 12 paid members for 2021. Jennifer Asleson, UFOP State VP and next year's State President attended, as did Jim Kirkland, Utah State Paleontologist. Two members of the media also attended and interviewed Jim and our speaker.

A motion was presented by Barbara Fincham, seconded by Diana Pedley, to postpone election of officers until the April, 2022 meeting to get back to our normal timing, thereby maintaining the current officers until then. Motion passed unanimously by members present, per our Bylaws. Thus the current officers (President Mike Stringham, Treasurer Dick Toll and myself) will continue until then.

UFOP Gastonia currently has \$1,148 for discretionary spending in support of paleontology education and science but we currently hold another \$27,981 of grant-directed funds. We currently administer four grant categories by accepting and disbursing these funds:

- Utahraptor State Park Fund (\$24,280 on behalf of Grand County)
- BLM SUPER (zero current balance, supports SE Utah public paleontology education, five year grant period expires next month)
- Moab Festival of Science (\$2,598 on behalf of the Festival Organizing Committee, includes paleo events)
- Moab Giants Science (\$1,104 on behalf of private donor, funds paleo science displays)

The prep lab activities have been moved in front of the MG display hall lab observation window to aid visitor viewing. Certification training will be organized once we have a proper dust control system. The Gastonia mount was moved into the ground level of the MG tower and is now protected by grant-funded transparent panels designed, built and installed by three of our members.

Utahraptor State Park Manager Joshua Hansen gave a well-received overview of park status and an outlook for future development. Josh reviewed the map of the new park area, pointing out the likely location of the entry station from US-191, and other areas of interest.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, August 25th, 6PM at the Grand Center in Moab with Joshua Lively speaking. Josh has been Curator of Paleontology at the CEU Prehistoric Museum in Price for not quite a year.

Respectfully submitted by Lee Shenton, Acting President