Lake Havasu Gem & Mineral Society / Havasu Rocks

General Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, October 7, 2026

Time: 5:30 PM

Executive Board Attendance

Elley – President

Josh – Vice President

Steve P. – Treasurer

Cheyanne G. – Secretary

1. Welcome & Administrative Review

Call to Order: President Elley called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

Previous Minutes: The previous meeting minutes were published in Rocky Tales. There being no objections, the minutes were approved as distributed.

Communication Issues: Members were reminded that some individuals are not receiving club communications from the new email address. All members are urged to check their spam and junk email folders.

2. Field Trip Update

Upcoming Trip: Scheduled for Saturday, October 10th.

Logistics: Participants will meet at the Parker Walmart at 8:30 AM.

Requirements: Attendees must sign the insurance waiver and pay the dig fee. Participants keep what they find.

Shop Closure: The Lapidary Shop will be completely closed on Saturday, as all personnel and volunteers will be attending the field trip.

Preview: Specimens of the rock types targeted at the claim were displayed on the front table for member inspection.

Discussion Regarding Claim Fees:

Club member Mike voiced strong dissatisfaction regarding the new dig fee, arguing that members used to access this specific claim for free in previous years and shouldn't be charged.

Elley clarified that she and Steve are now partners on the claim. She explained that she personally paid over $1,000.00 to complete the paperwork, walk the claim with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and file the necessary California state documentation. She noted that nobody stepped up when she previously asked the club for volunteers to handle it, prompting her and Steve to secure it so it wasn't claimed by outside parties.

Mike countered that the claim should have been secured on behalf of the club as a whole.

Elley noted that attendance on the trip is entirely voluntary. She pointed out that members routinely pay similar fees for other club outings, such as trips to Jack's claim or various turquoise claims, to cover ownership costs. She added that she loves the area and is personally excited to see what specimens are exposed following the recent rainstorms.

3. Shop Operations & Volunteer Training

Promotion: Vice President Josh reported that he is working on acquiring promotional banners and currently has one in his truck.

Operations: Deep appreciation was expressed to Cheyanne G. for keeping the shop open. Weekend traffic has been consistently busy.

Volunteer Requirements: Elley clarified that volunteering at the shop carries significant operational responsibility and is not a social space. Volunteers must learn formal opening/closing procedures, operate the Square register, know inventory locations, count register cash accurately, and manage utilities (ensuring lights and A/C are turned off).

Scheduling Strategy: Additional volunteers are urgently needed to expand operational days, particularly with incoming winter visitors. If current volunteers split from large groups of four into smaller pairs, the shop can safely open on additional days to drive higher sales.

Eligibility: To legally volunteer at the shop, individuals must hold an active club membership.

4. Financial Report

Steve P. (Treasurer) presented the year-to-date (YTD) financial standing for the period spanning February 1st through September 30th.

Entity / Account

Income / Balance

Expenses

Net / Notes

Society (YTD)

$2,327.00

$8,967.00

Includes $1,500 scholarship & $2,065 storage fees.

Havasu Rocks / Shop

$24,400.00

$28,994.00

Net: -$4,594.00. Includes $6,973.00 in vendor merchandise sales.

Society Checking

$21,051.00

—

Active balance.

Scholarship Account

$3,961.00

—

Restricted funds.

Contingency Fund (CD)

$10,000.00

—

Dedicated emergency fund.

Havasu Rocks Checking

$17,035.00

—

Separate corporate account.

Corporate Distinction: Elley clarified that the Club operates as a 501(c)(7) organization, while the Lapidary Shop operates as a 501(c)(3). They are legally distinct corporations with separate checking accounts.

Financial Health: While the shop generated $24,400 in total sales, $6,973 went directly to external vendors, leaving the shop with a net loss of $4,584 over the summer. Increasing open hours and total sales remains a critical priority before further action is taken with Steve P. regarding long-term financial planning.

5. Membership Report

Current Roster: Rose reported a total of 266 members, including 15 new or returning members.

New Member Introduction: Marcus was welcomed as a new member and expressed immediate interest in volunteering. He selected his free rock from the Rock Box and noted he discovered the club online.

6. Secretarial & Marketing Updates

Labor Update: Cheyanne G. noted she has worked consecutive weekends and requested support to train an additional person to alleviate her schedule and assist during busy Sundays. Linda and Norb continue to keep lapidary operations running on Sundays as well.

Social Media & Outreach: Members are strongly requested to like and share Cheyanne G.'s weekend Facebook posts and upcoming features on Arizona community pages to drive business.

Marketing Materials: Distribution of Havasu Rocks flyers and tumbled promotional stones will continue on Mondays.

7. Upcoming Events

Fright Night (October 31st):

The application has been submitted. The club is waiting on final placement details (determining if the layout is first-come, first-served).

Members are urgently asked to donate candy. The event historically runs out quickly; only one bag has been received so far.

Annual Gem Show:

Volunteering: Sign-up sheets for various roles are available on the back table. Members are asked to review openings and sign up during the break. Elley is available to answer questions regarding positions.

Venue & Fees: The show will be held on the asphalt in the overflow parking lot (not in the dirt or sand). State Park entry fees are completely waived for Gem Show attendees, who may use a dedicated entrance. This will be promoted via the website and Facebook.

Raffle Baskets: Julie, Judy, and Charlotte are actively collecting donations around town. Charlotte and Julie are available to train new volunteers to help solicit businesses. Tax information forms detailing our non-profit status are available; funds raised directly benefit local high school scholarships.

Vendors & Attractions: 25 vendors and 3 food trucks are confirmed so far, with booking open until the week prior. Geode Cracking tables will be featured.

Vendor Pricing: Vendor tables are set at $75 per table with a two-table minimum requirement (vendors receive one additional table free for both days).

8. Educational Presentation

Video Screening: Josh presented an educational video titled "Rock to Crystals" for the membership.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheyanne G.

Secretary, Lake Havasu Gem & Mineral Society / Havasu Rocks