

**SNSA Board Meeting,
January 14, 2019, 6:30 PM
Spokane Club**

Present: Libby Schoedel, Ben Mandel, Dave Yadon, Brad Thiessen, Susan Engel, Jay Wisor, Andy Anderson, Kate Burns, Colin Quinn-Hurst, Mike Powers, Peter Groza,
Guest: Bruce Utsey, Chris White, Diana Dupuis, John MCCarthy, George Bryant, George Momany, Robin DeRuwe, John Drumm

Action items highlighted yellow. Motions made and voted on are green.

Review/approve meeting minutes from December (Jay/Kate)

Motion to approve. Andy; second Libby.

Treasury Report (Libby)

Profit and Loss by Class and Balance Sheet Comparison distributed by Libby. ACTION ITEM: Jay distribute financials with January minutes.

Grooming Advisory Committee

grooming feedback and communication channels to Park's staff (Dave). Disagreement about communication structure among grooming committee (8-10 people) and state parks. Resolution: 1) George Momany alone will represent grooming committee to state parks. George will Cc the entire grooming committee in communication with state parks. Kyle the groomer will be the main contact with George on the state parks end. ACTION: Kate: Kyle is a major asset and needs to be thanked explicitly by the board on behalf of the Nordic community. He did go to the Champions Among Us event for free. Peter suggests that we should give Kyle a card to recognize his exceptional performance so far. Susan suggests that the grooming advisory committee members names should be listed on our website. ACTION: Dave to seek grooming advisory committee's permission to list their names (but only George M.'s email address) on our website. Charter for the grooming advisory committee needs to be approved by that committee and placed on our website as well.

Snowmobile (Kate)

Ski patrol wants to give us their snowmobile. Director of ski patrol does not want ownership of the snowmobile for liability reasons. ACTION: Kate/Lisa Sunderman will show our liability contract to ski patrol to verify our coverage. Kate to verify with state parks whether they will help cover maintenance for snowmobile. All of above contingent on whether or not the grant application for a new snowmobile submitted by Lisa Sunderman will be funded.

Policy for cancellation and/or altered courses for events (Brad)

Example: the Loppet may not be a ski event if there is not enough snow. We must state explicitly that there are no refunds and no cancellation. This is relevant to both participants and sponsors. ACTION: Brad to draft statement of policy for refunds/cancellations.

Fundraising (Jay, Andy, Brad)

Board is enthusiastic for a Birkebener movie event at the Magic Lantern Theater.

ACTION: Jay contact Travis Prewitt and possibly theater regarding bake sale. Brad make poster for donations. Jay contact Libby regarding credit card for donations.

Board is enthusiastic for a Millwood Tap Room event in early March the evening of the Loppet. **ACTION:** Brad to see if the room is available for that night.

Volunteer Parking Passes (Kate)

We can no longer get them free so we will have to buy them. **ACTION:** Kate will purchase parking passes for volunteers at SNSA events and make event directors aware of this policy.

Fatbike Discussion

Diana Dupuis represents State Parks perspective. Chris White represents Fat Bike community. Ours would not be the first state park in Wa with fat bikes on Nordic trails. State Parks duty is to give rec opportunities to the max number of users. Blocking use would require state parks commission permission. Safety concerns can preempt increased user numbers at the discretion of the commission. Inland Empire Paper agrees with Wa state parks and will abide with the parks with regard to this issue. Alpine area is exempt from obligation to maximize users because it is a concessioner. There is no policy that prevents multiple use of cross country area (despite a lengthy attempt by Spokane Nordic to work with state parks commission to set one). There is a master trail plan for Mt Spokane state park. It has specific constraints on motorized vehicles but it does not have any trails listed as 'sole-use'. Community member John McCarthy expressed concern about the safety of the ski trails in the presence of fat bikes and their effects on the quality of the trails. Diana Dupuis emphasized that the fat bikes have different and highly technical grooming requirements.

Are the snowmobile trails amenable to Fat Bikes? Not really, because the snowmobile trails are too steep. Parks could make single track trails and groom independently of the Nordic trails or connect them from the Nordic trails. Diana Dupuis suggests based on her experience that 'digging your heels in' and resisting the mandate to maximize user opportunities will not be a useful strategy within the state parks system. EBikes are considered motorized vehicles and are prohibited from soft-surface trails in state parks so far. This may change in the near future.

Ticketing is of limited value in enforcement of etiquette and informal agreements between different sporting groups. For instance, ticketing dogs pooping on trails is not enforceable; ticketing dogs off leash is enforceable. If something becomes a safety issue, there can be a suspension of a given activity at a given place.

Can we create more trails at Mt Spokane? Diana says that at some point enough is enough so there will at some point be a limit to new trails and all users will have to make do with the trails that exist at that point.

Chris White said that Fat Bikes need flat terrain. He sees the Nordic area as unique in that it is flat and there is access to it. Other flat areas are only accessed by prohibitively steep areas. George Momany, a Fat bike owner, recommends that the Kit Carson road be used. George and Chris disagreed on whether Kit Carson trails are adequate. Parking is a limiting factor regardless of where the Fat Bikers would park. Grooming is another yet to be addressed concern. The Kit Carson loop road is shared by dog walkers and snow shoers and their safety is a concern with Fat Bike use there.

Could there be smaller trails groomed by the Fat Bike groomer (a motorcycle groomer) that parallel the current Nordic trails. Flat trails are at a premium and sharing them with bikes would make it a safety risk for children, adaptive, spinal injury skiers.

One next step is for state parks to assess Fat Bike community needs.

WRAC funds non-motorized activity. SnAC (snowmobile activities committee) funds motorized activity. The SnAC is covered by the snowmobile reg fees. Our winter permit fees cover the WRAC funding. Personnel are interchangeable (per hourly activities), but equipment is not. Fat Bike users are likely to fall into the WRAC category. Having a separate groomer and separate trails for the Fat Bikes would complicate the finances.

Wheel sport does have a Fat Bike groomer that they lend to anyone who wants to groom (legally) anywhere. It could be lent to state parks for experimenting with grooming, but Diana says she cannot do this due to state regulations. Peter Groza asked if the groomer could be used on established trails at Kit Carson? Diana said yes it could but not in the near future due to other obligations. Diana will think about when and where to experiment with the Fat Bike groomer.

According to Chris White, single track trails cannot be shared between Fat Bikes and snow shoers due to collision threat. Similar problems exist with mtn bikers/hikers. Diana pointed out that mountain bike trails are designated "Mtn Bike right-of-way". Hikers can be there but yield to Mtn Bikes. State Parks can encourage certain user groups to go elsewhere but not enforce single-use trails unless safety is at issue. Peter asks whether snowshoers could be discouraged from using mtn biking trails, and Fat Bike users encouraged. Diana cautioned against discouraging snow shoers from using trails because of the hazards of off trail shoeing for the typical (inexperienced) snowshoer. She reiterated the difficulty of setting up new trails.

Next steps for Diana is to visit Mt. Spokane with Chris White to assess Fat Bike needs and logistics of making Fat Bikes work. Goal is to visit in the winter to see trails as they would be used. Diana's preference would be to make a plan amenable to all user groups locally. If agreement cannot be made locally, issue rises to a higher level within State Parks for resolution. All this within the next year is Diana's goal. She wants to work with us, and has asked that Kate be the main contact between her and the board with regard to this issue. Diana recognizes the immense amount of work on the part of

the ski community and assures that it will be noted as planning goes forward. Board assured Diana that we will be a partner for the Fat Bike community to meet their goals. Round Valley park system outside of Park City was cited as an example of a good partnership between Nordic skiers and Fat Bikers.

Adjourned @ 8:30.

Updates: (as needed, and if time allows) ACTION: Board members in charge of following can update the board by email as needed.

NK

Rangers

Transition/Race Teams

Adaptive

Event updates (BarkerBiener, Nordic Cup, Loppet)

Wi-fi in Selkirk

-Wildlife report (Kurt)

-Skijor report (Kate)