

**Spokane Nordic Ski Association, Board Meeting  
6/11/18**

**Motions brought to vote are highlighted in green.  
Action items are highlighted in yellow.**

Location: Mike Powers' house, 2006 E 24th Ave

Present: Wisor, Sunderman (last meeting as Board member), Gaus, Yadon, Thiessen, Schoedel, Engel, Burns, Powers, Groza.

Absent: Anderson

GUESTS: George Bryant, Chris Sharman, Diana Roberts

**Motion to approve of April Minutes. APPROVED**

**6:15 Guest speaker: Diana Roberts, skijor committee**

2004: Diana Roberts skijored since 2004 on snowmobile trails

2008: Mica and Linder grandfathered in for skijoring when they became ski trails from snowmobiling

2008-present: Diana has built a community/ email list for skijoring. Low return rate as people try skijoring but there is attrition. Email list =100; 30 faithful/active people.

Problem owners/problem dogs (ie off-leash dogs on Mtn View) erroneously associated with skijoring. As a community we can make rules to enforce good dog behavior.

Barkerbiener was successful this year. Went off very well. Pleasant weather.

What days are good for skijoring?

Wednesday has been problematical because the trails not always sufficiently groomed after Monday-Tuesday snow. Monday afternoon would work for some (but not if dogs tired after Sunday). Saturday is out of the question. Thursday would be a good compromise.

Possible certification for skijor dogs: 'canine good citizenship' is a possibility (\$20).

State Parks management wants to expand use to as many users as possible. We can try to counter that but cannot enforce ticketing/enforcement against skijoring misbehavior or any other form of user misbehavior.

After Diana's departure, we continue discussion about what days and trails should be open to skijoring.

Diana wants Sunday/Monday/Wednesday/Friday PM for skijor (no AM because mornings are busy and skate skiers want good corduroy).

George Bryant has no objection to Thursday PM skijoring.

There may be a strategic advantage to embrace and synergize with the skijor community as well as adaptive, biathlon (“a park for everyone”). Support is high according to survey (80% of community survey respondents are OK with skijoring).

Grooming committee resists expansion to days beyond Sunday/ Wednesday. Some concerns that Diana sees the community as fractured (SNSA vs grooming committee vs unaffiliates skiers vs skijor community). Diana seeks a consensus and SNSA needs to build it.

**MOTION (Lisa): Skijoring on currently approved trails Sunday, Mondays, Tuesday, Thursday PM, and Wednesday all day. Seconded (Dave). APPROVED no abstentions, no nay.**

### **7:00 Guest speaker: Chris Sharman**

Chris was introduced to new board members. Then introduced self... coach of both Transition team and Cross-Train Ski Team.

Should race team and T team coordinate so that the van can take T team kids as well as Race team? YES, the board agrees that T team should have access.

Is there a need for assistant coach(es)? Chris estimates that there will be 14.4 kids on the T team. Last year they had about that many, and there was a sometimes unmet need for assistant coaches so that they can split off on their own in smaller groups by skill/endurance level.

Is the decreasing number of racers a concern? Chris is recruiting via cross-train team; this helps. Chris also recognizes need for a peer group; he tries to recruit in peer groups.

Asked if he needs support for cross train (especially over summer), Chris pointed out summer events that are great recruiting opportunities where we should recruit. U district ('hot summer nights', other race events).

**ACTION: identify a volunteer (or volunteer committee) to market Nordic skiing year-round to recruit potential racers (adults and pre-teens/teens alike).**

Chris pointed out need to groom coaches as well as racers. He points out himself as an example of a groomed coach.

Board members commented that teams are a loss at this time. One goal is just to balance the budget for teams.

Lisa confirmed that the current model will not work unless we have 20+ race team kids.

Chris suggested we figure out a financial model that matches the enrollment on the T (estimated n=14) and race (estimated n=16-18) teams, whether these targets are hit or not.

**ACTION ITEM:** Chris to send receipts for T team related items to Libby via the post office box.

Chris requests insurance coverage to protect him from injury to skiers. Was not granted last year. Needs funds for assistant coaches. Needs to have T team wax box replaced (somebody stole it at Selkirk).

**ACTION:** Board requested 2017-2018 expenses from George/Chris. Need to follow up.

**ACTION ITEM:** Kate meet with George and Chris to clarify budgetary issues related to T team and race team.

Kurt: Does racing have to define us as an organization? What about ski patrol, junior skijor?

Race team parents/families contribute back to Nordic kids in ways that are intangible. We need to be cognizant of these contributions.

Do we want parental 'buy-out' of voluntary Nordic Kids duties (volunteer or pay)? Board thinks this is a bad idea. No vote.

**MOTION (Wisor):** Petru Groza to replace Wisor as board liaison for Race programs. Seconded by Petru Groza. All votes in favor. APPROVED no abstentions, no nay.

### **GUEST 7:42 George Bryant**

PNSA coaches meeting last month announced the schedule of races. Spokane races are president's day weekend. George would like to see Sunday-Monday races to not conflict with Nordic Kids. Summer workouts start next week; continue into September. Ski camp second week in July. Bend Endurance Academy in flux; Methow Valley is in flux.

George will have van tires checked and potentially replaced. George can get discounted roller skis.

**ACTION:** Brad to update the sponsorship request letter.

**ACTION:** Kurt will try to get sponsored wax from Toko.

**ACTION:** JN committee will look into van sponsorships. (Les Schwab and Gus Johnson Ford).

**ACTION:** George to contact Sadie Bjornsen for possible Champions dinner spot... will update Susan Engel directly.

**ACTION:** Peter to remind George of above action item.

**Sharman/Bryant left @7:55**

**-Review of 2018/19 budget (Libby and Lisa)**

Budget worked up by Lisa and Libby needs to be approved by board. Only Lisa, Libby, Kate have seen it so far. We cannot vote on it without seeing it, so only discussing.

Some noteworthy expenses:

TRAILS: up to \$1K: \$500 for equipment storage and maintenance; \$250 for pumping pit toilets; gas for vehicles.

**ACTION:** Kate to set up account for Bob Hyslop to service trail-related equipment.

Skijoring event was profit source for this year. This needs to be maintained as a profit center.

Nordic Kids was also profit source.

T team expenses not yet accounted for; Chris needs to submit reimbursement requests during the current fiscal year.

**ACTION:** Libby and Peter to remind Chris weekly to submit receipts for reimbursement.

Winterfest: Do we need to make this a large event that runs the risk of being a net loss, or do we just do lessons for fees to prevent loss? We need to decide which way to go on this. Brad suggests that Winterfest is the cap-off of membership renewal season and is either Jan 13 or Jan 20. No resolution on this.

**ACTION:** Firmer plan needed by October 1 (ski lessons/booths/meal/group ski to Nova Hut).

**ACTION:** George needs to confirm that he and not Spokane Nordic will collect fees for summer training.

JNQ revenue was -13K; Nordic Kids was +\$4K; race team was -\$15K for the year. T team was +4K (but Chris still has an estimated -\$2K outstanding reimbursement). Need to formulate a 2018-2019 budget that will be balanced.

Loppet went from +\$4K to +\$100 profit; need sponsorships.

General programs, ski schools had reduced revenues in 2017-2018 vs 2016-2017. Projections are for a modest positive balance in next fiscal year.

### **CHAMPIONS EVENT**

Champions event was approved a few meetings back. Champions event brought in \$4K this past year. McGinnity room takes alcohol sales and we take the dessert dash and other fundraising (ie auction) at the dinner.

Brad reminded us that we have an integrated data base of sponsor solicitations by SNSA/Langlauf/JNQ.

**ACTION:** Susan and Robin Redman to establish Champions Dinner committee; targeting November 4 for the event (2 board members and some community volunteers).

**ACTION** Brad to use social media to recruit help for the Champions Dinner committee.

**ACTION:** Susan to estimate attendance; price per ticket (adult/kid separate prices).

**ACTION:** Brad to give a discount for membership renewal prior to or at time of Champions Dinner.

### **BOARD MEMBER RENEWAL**

**MOTION** (Sunderman/seconded by Groza): Renew board membership for the following members who have served their 2-year term: Dave, Jay, Mike, Kate, Libby  
**APPROVED** no abstentions, no nay.

**MOTION** (Powers/ seconded Yadon): Officer Positions for the 2018/19 season  
President- Burns  
Vice-President-Anderson  
Treasurer-Schoede  
Secretary-Wisor  
**APPROVED** no abstentions, no nay.

### **MISC**

Brad updates board on Calendar of events for 2018/19 season. See email.

We decided to move the Loppet to March 10 to avoid competition with a March 3 out-of-town event.

Winterfest moves to Jan 13.

**ACTION:** Kate to inquire on and update Brad on Barkerbeiner date.

-NK changes/implementation/fundraising (Brad in Andy's absence). Brad believes that all materials, online infrastructure, etc will be ready by Sept 1.

**ACTION: Brad to confirm above for board at September meeting**

**MOTION: Board votes to give Nordic Kids Olympics finishers ribbons, not pins.  
APPROVED no abstentions, no nay.**

**ACTION: Kate to clarify with Andy that cost for making Nordic Kids tee-shirts is \$1500, not \$150.**

-Trail Clearing (Kate) Still no trail clearing coordinator for summer.

**ACTION: Kate to get external volunteer or come back to board on this by end of month.**

-WRAC funding request was submitted by Lisa.

-MREC (Kate): Stakeholder meeting in June. MREC proposals cannot involve biathlon.

-Grooming committee (Dave). Board encourages Dave to convince the grooming committee to be more transparent and establish formal governance.

-NK/Team background checks for coaches (Susan) .

**ACTION: Susan to work with PSIA to identify background check protocols for coaches, only to the level of T and race teams;** Lisa says that this is not necessary for Nordic kids because participation is voluntary. Apparently there is a simple background check process that can be included in Nordic Kids volunteering process.

**ACTION: Andy needs to update board on what background checks would entail and their feasibility.**

New board members: Ben Mandel still being recruited. We need another member, to be recruited in the fall.

Lisa's parting gift... recommending Dave as board liaison for adult lesson programs.

We need to expand rangers/junior patrol squad.

**ACTION: Kurt to reach out to Frank Burns/Bill Olson/Sam Schneider to assist in expansion of rangers/junior patrol squad.**

**ACTION: Kate/Andy to renew Brad's contract.**

Items not discussed

-Masters Race Training Program (Jay)

-Fundraising committee