



Board Meeting Minutes November 11, 2018

Board Members Present: Kate Burns, Andy Anderson, Elizabeth (Libby) Schoedel, Peter Groza, Dave Yadon, Kurt Gauss, Susan Engel, Ben Mendel

Board Members Absent: Mike Powers, Jay Wisor

Present: Brad Thiessen (Director of Engagement), Matt Halloran, Colin Quinn-Hurst

Matt and Colin attended as potential board members. Each gave a brief outline of their Nordic skiing interest and background, after which each other person in attendance gave a brief personal introduction.

Kate Burns, Board President, called the meeting to order.

Review of Prior Meeting Minutes

Kate asked for an approval of the December 2017 meeting minutes. The motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded and approved, with all in favor of the minutes as written.

Celebrate the Champions Among Us dinner and Auction

Susan reported profit, donations, positive and negative feedback on the Nov 4 event. The event was a financial success with ticket sales breaking even and \$7,000 in income from the silent auction, raffle and Dessert Dash. Overall feedback was excellent with a few areas of future improvement. Susan indicated a desire to coordinate next year's event, and begin planning earlier.

Financial Report

Libby went over P&L statements, which are looking positive for this time of year compared to the previous fiscal year. There was discussion around the seemingly high and variable online payment

payment fees. Once time allows, Libby and Brad will investigate fee structure and possible alternative options. This is not an action item at this time.

Trail Map

The trail map as currently designed has room for 1 large \$650 sponsor logo and 4 small \$300 logos. Brad reported that allowances can be made to sub in another larger logo for 2 smaller logos. Brad reported that Fitness Fanatics has made a verbal commitment to a \$650 logo, and has requested a formal commitment. Susan reported that the law firm of SNSA member Holland McBurns has committed to a \$300 logo and is awaiting an invoice.

ACTION ITEM: Libby and Susan to coordinate an invoice for Holland McBurns

ACTION ITEM: Brad to confirm commitment with Fitness Fanatics and coordinate and invoice with Libby.

ACTION ITEM: Brad to send draft and specs to Matt and Kurt

ACTION ITEM: Matt and Kurt to pursue competitive or donated printing through their contacts by November 20.

Fundraising

Brad reported that the Google doc tracking sponsorship and donor asks has been updated and shared with all board members. The document has columns to track asks and commitments for Langlauf, JNQ, Champions dinner, Nordic Kids, Winterfest, the Loppet and the BarkerBeiner. Board members are to note asks and results in order to ensure potential sponsors and donors do not receive duplicate asks.

ACTION ITEM: board members look through donor doc; Kurt and Susan to arrange meeting of board members to make prospect list

Nordic Kids

Andy reported there are already 40 kids signed up for Nordic Kids, along with 14 coaches. With the new larger class formats, allocation to classes is falling into place well. Training card design is finalized and sets will be produced soon. T-shirt design is finalized. With the new sponsor tracking document in place, Andy is ready to find t-shirt sponsor(s).

Ski Teams

Kate reported that low enrolment is anticipated. The JNQ race and Langlauf will both have an Adaptive skiing component this year, which require a separate course. With the inclusion of Adaptive skiing and with the Masters Skiing program targeting participation in the JNQ, the event needs to be branded strongly as the Spokane Nordic Cup, which has been its official name for 4-5 years.

Grooming

Dave reported that the grooming committee will meet in the coming week. Parks staff are in the process of pre-season maintenance and repair on both grooming machines, and Kyle is in place to be the groomer operator.

WA State Park Recreation Committee

Andy reported that he attended the WA State Parks Recreation Committee meeting recently. Their 10-year plan has virtually no improvements for Mt. Spokane, other than moving the maintenance shed to a better location.

Snowball Potluck

Kate reported that the people who had committed to coordinating the Snowball Potluck in Selkirk Lodge on the first Saturday of official grooming have had to withdraw.

ACTION ITEM: Kate will ask Robin Redman for potential volunteers

Ski Team Van

Kate reported that Mike Burns took the ski team van in to Mechanics Pride for new tires. He was told the van was unsafe due to rusted parts, with a repair cost of around \$3,000. Langlauf donated \$500 toward repairs and Mechanics Pride gave \$1k in donated labor. A private donation covered most of the remaining costs. With the repairs, the van is in overall good shape. Indoor storage is needed to ensure this type of damage does not happen again.

Volunteers and contractors

There was lengthy discussion of the disparity between contractors and volunteers between programs and teams, with no consistent policy on reimbursement of volunteers through child tuition waivers or other compensation.

There was also discussion of the value of having all lead Nordic Kids receive PSIA training, given the tremendous financial cost incurred. Some questioned whether skills training was as crucial in working with younger kids compared to the need for standardized curriculum, whether PSIA training was a significant and appropriate incentive for coaches, and whether PSIA coaching significantly legitimized Nordic Kids instruction in the eyes of parents. It was pointed out that the program is maxing out at this point. The conclusion was that a possible model is to have some PSIA-accredited lead instructors who lead training sessions for other Spokane Nordic coaches. More discussion is needed at a future meeting.

Kurt made a motion, Susan seconded, and it was unanimously

Approved: It is standard Spokane Nordic policy that for the 2018-19 season, there will be no compensation for any volunteers outside of race team and transition team.

Suggestion for future agenda item: discuss PSIA

Meeting adjourned.

Meeting notes taken by Brad Thiessen