

**Spokane Nordic Ski Association, Board Meeting, September 2018  
9/10/18**

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

Location: Kate Burns' house, [2336 S Pittsburg St, Spokane, WA 99203](#)

Call to order 6:30 PM

Present: Elizabeth Schoedel, Petru Groza, Susan Engel, Dave Yadon, Kurt Gaus, Andy Anderson, Kate Burns, Mike Powers, Jay Wisor, Brad Thiessen

Guest: Ben Mandel from Coeur D'Alene. Ben has children (ages 8,6 on T team and Nordic Kids)

Ben introduces himself to group

**Motion to approve minutes from June (Yadon); seconded (Gaus)**

### **Trail Clearing**

Trail clearing organized this year by a volunteer. Two trail days occurred 09/08/18 led by Todd Dunnfield and Sam Schlieder. Three other trail days proposed for later in season. State Parks informed Pres Burns that they would clear the trails from Selkirk to junction 2. Has not happened yet. Parks management not communicative with Burns or Momany about this. May be because they are overburdened with fire fighting. Above highlights need for year round trail organizing by a trails committee working in parallel with grooming committee.

### **Grooming Update**

Kyle is committed and the goal is to have him be proactive about the maintenance of the grooming equipment.

### **Adaptive**

US Paralympic ski team wants to strengthen ties between adaptive community and SNSA. **ACTION ITEM GROZA: Make this connection and recruit volunteers for an adaptive clinic**

### **Skijoring**

Skijoring now open Sunday through Thursday PM. Linder Lower Tripps, Upper Tripps, Mica.

Libby Schoedel assisting Diana Roberts in getting a permit for the Barkiebeiner. We have not heard back yet from State Parks on the status of the permit.

### **Nordic Kids**

Training cards being developed.

**ACTION: ANDY to present training cards to board at next meeting.**

Flyers, flags, posts, wax supplies still needed. Need to organize a wax clinic to get all the skate skis waxed.

**ACTION ITEM: Gaus/Anderson will have flags made for the Nordic kids gathering sites.**

Rob Stevens to return as PM Nordic Kids coordinator. Seeking morning Nordic Kids coordinator.

**ACTION ITEM: Anderson/Thiessen to send out 2-minute announcement for morning NK coordinator.**

Goal to have a sponsor who will have their imprint on tee-shirts, to be given at Nordic Kids registration.

### **Sponsorships**

We need a strategic plan for targeting sponsors. To get those sponsors, we need to collate a list of potential sponsors and have a sponsorship committee to oversee our interactions with those potential sponsors.

Background checks are necessary for US Ski and Snowboard sponsored events. 'Safe Sport' certification requires background check. We can do that with names and SSN only.

Concern that it might discourage people from volunteering not shared by group. No action at this time but Kate and Andy to develop background check procedures and documentation.

Gaus shares trail map prototypes that he presented and designed by Brad. These can be marketed to sponsors. Brad's estimate of trail map costs is \$450 per season.

**ACTION ITEMS: Brad share Google doc listing potential sponsors with Susan.**

The board had a list of potential sponsors a few years ago,

**ACTION ITEM: Susan, collate resources provided by Brad and what she has gotten for the Champions Among Us Dinner. Share with Andy, Kurt.**

**ACTION ITEM: Andy use list from Susan to seek Nordic Kids sponsors.**

Do we want levels of sponsorship?

**ACTION ITEM Kurt will convene a sponsorship committee.**

**ACTION ITEM: Kate ask Diana Dupuy if it is possible for businesses to sponsor trails.** If yes, do we want to get sponsors for trails? Discuss at future meetings.

Should we cultivate a Methow Valley vendor as a sponsor? What would this mean for our local sponsors? Should we play vendors off of each other to get the best deal for our members? We could just be transparent and have a web site that lists vendors and the discounts they give to our members; no exclusivity.

**ACTION ITEM: Burns to discuss possible Methow sponsor with Robin @ Fitness Fanatics.**

**ACTION ITEM: Burns will contact Methow Valley vendor for details of their proposed sponsorship/arrangement.**

### **Champions Among Us Event**

Speaker(s): 4 master skiers/world Loppet participants will speak on a panel moderated by Lisa Sunderman. Donations have been sought. Chris Curry donated time and will come to pitch his book.

**ACTION ITEM:** Susan to contact Diana Dupuy to dinner to sell permits and generally connect.

Andy Anderson to talk about Nordic Kids. Kara to talk about Masters skier program.

**ACTION ITEMS:** Jay contact Kara to ask her to be involved in Champions Among Us Dinner.

Jane and Peter working on dessert dash. Can we get sponsorship on alcohol? Wine bottles placed on each purchased table.

**ACTION ITEM:** Susan to approach Townsend to sponsor wine.

**ACTION ITEM:** Gary Silver Award committee will decide the winner: Burns, Powers, Yadon, Thiessen.

### **Snowball Potluck**

First Saturday of grooming.

**ACTION ITEM:** Petru Groza to serve as coordinator.

**ACTION ITEM:** Susan to contact Jackie Allen to serve as co-coordinator.

### **Budget**

Schoedel presented annual financial report (balance sheet, profit and loss by class, draft budget).

Budget projections for race team (assuming 16 kids) and transition team will break even. Are we a racing club? Is racing a mission of the SNSA?

Race team is currently perceived as an undue financial burden.

**ACTION ITEMS:** Burns, Powers, Groza to do some comparative cost analysis on equivalent coaches to assure pay level of our coaches is appropriate.

**ACTION ITEM:** Burns to convene a meeting of race team parents to increase their involvement in fundraising for racing; goal is to offload emphasis on racing from board to race team families.

Future meetings of SNSA board will have to consider formally separating off racing program. Tuition for other race programs is much lower than ours.

**ACTION ITEMS FOR ALL:** Look through budget line-by-line. Ask Libby any questions. Be prepared to make an informed budget decision at the next meeting.

Long-term goal of SNSA is to make all programs self-sufficient, separate from other programs. We should be a brand that they can use to market/network; not a bank account for programs.

**ACTION ITEM:** Libby to make sure insurance coverage is sufficient for all events/programs.

**ACTION ITEM:** Libby will update the trail clearing expenses.

### **Miscellaneous**

Lisa Sunderman wants SNSA to donate entry fees for lessons/Nordic Kids/T-team/Cross-Train Team as auctionable items for fundraisers by Active-For-Youth organization and LC Cross Country runners. This highlights our need to expand beyond

South Hill (to Mead and Coeur D'Alene). This may not make money but will increase awareness/interest.

**MOTION: SNSA to sponsor lessons and entry fees as a donation for Active-For-Youth organization and LC Cross Country fundraisers. APPROVED.**

**ACTION ITEM: Kate to get list of our State Park-related activities from Lisa Sunderman and share with Diana Dupuy.**

**ACTION ITEM: Burns to poll members for their willingness to host future meetings.**

Anderson emphasized importance of recruiting Nordic Kids coaches; number of coaches is a bottleneck.

Gaus asked if required gear for Rangers should be simplified. Board concurred that that would be good.

Burns update on new lodge: State Parks has organized stakeholders' meeting for October to unveil potential designs for new lodge.

**ACTION ITEM: Burns to attend.**

Grooming committee has requested a new snowmobile. Current snowmobile could die any day.

**ACTION ITEM: Burns to connect with Sandpoint Nordic people who have gotten grants for their budgetary needs.**