

December 10, 2018

Present: Libby Schoedel, Kate Burns, Jay Wisor, Ben Mandel, Dave Yadon, Andy Anderson, Susan Engel, Mike Powers, Matt Halloran, Kurt Gauss, Petru Groza
Guest: Colin Quinn-Hurst

AGENDA

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

Welcome, Matt!

Review and approve the November meeting minutes.

Motion to approve November minutes by Ben, seconded Libby, approved.

Jay is preparing to live overseas and his last board meeting is February. Need to replace Jay (secretary) by February, then Libby (treasurer) by June.

Treasury Report (Libby)

ACTION ITEM: Jay to attach financial records to minutes; verify that Brad posts minutes and financial records online.

Current balance down approx. 3K from last year even with Champions Dinner money. We are at 47% of budget. Expenses @ 90K; current accounts @ 40K. Some income will come in through Loppet, Nordic Kids, membership, adult lessons, Rangers. Memberships are down relative to last yr.

JNQ will likely break even with respect to Race Team. Loppet will likely add a few thousand dollars to balance. Winterfest may be a loss with new WA State Parks fee structure. We may want to cancel Winterfest in coming years.

Update on WA State Park's new fee structure (Kate)

Kate met with Diana Dupuis. New admin at State Parks seeks to charge for every event. \$45 fee to register event and \$1.31 per day per person. Commercial use fee \$50 for any event and \$1 per person per day for commercial use (includes all people involved: students, instructors, assistant coaches etc.). This is a possible additional expense on top of the snow park permit.

State Parks does consider counter proposals (organizations can protest to the state in writing; they do negotiate these fees). To be proposed as a counter: For events, we pay the group fees and add a surcharge for events at time of registration online.

ACTION ITEM:

Kate to submit a draft agreement contract to Diana Dupuis; it will be negotiated and modified iteratively. Next iteration after return of negotiated document from Diana to Kate will be shared with board for board input.

Grooming/Trails Update (Dave) Grooming committee met with Kyle, the groomer last year and this year. The 350 and 180 groomers require maintenance; goal was to get that maintenance done by Dec 1. Friends of Mt. Spokane will pay \$2K for maintenance.

Trail widening was done in pre-season by State Parks staff. A 5-yr plan is being put together by state for trail maintenance. Current permit for trail maintenance (including tree removal) remains intact through this season. George Momany and Diana Dupuis are working on a grant to purchase new snowmobile for grooming. Potentially will get new snowmobile by next season (2019-2020) or possibly the one after that (2020-2021). Parks to maintain that snowmobile, not SNSA, as it is needed by State Parks for search and rescue. Another grant application is being put together for extension of grooming season. Hoped for widening of paper trail did not happen; goal is to have that done in the next year or two. Inland Paper would have to be involved as it involves their land. Grooming equipment is being stored by Bob Hyslop for now. Another option might be sought in future years but not urgent. Proceeds from the bake sale at the recent Banff Mountain Film Festival will go toward trail maintenance.

Two possible new trails linking Selkirk to Linder for adaptive are being considered.

Action item: Coach George Bryant needs to ask Paul Fish about storing the SNSA van @ mountain gear warehouse for the off-season.

Discussion on Fat Bikes using Nordic Trails.

Diana D brought this to Kate's attention. It is likely that Fat Bikes will be given access to Mt Spokane trails in winter. Do we have a trail suggestion for full-time skijor/fat bike use? Diana Dupuis wants fat bikes and skijor to have access to a subset of trails every day. Diana regards it as an inevitability in the long term. A possible counter-suggestion is to have them make their own single-track trails. Another possibility (used in Methow and Sandpoint) is to restrict the timing of fat bike use to times when optimal grooming has been achieved recently. Absent proper grooming, fat bikes trash the Nordic trails. But this is hard to control and enforce and argues for restriction of fat bikes to specific trails, preferably not those currently used for Nordic. Kit Carson road, for instance, could be used as fat bike area.

Wi-Fi at Selkirk

Wi-Fi costs SNSA \$100 per month. Is used at organizational level only for races and screen programming. Used by guests at the lodge for personal use. May be good PR for SNSA to continue paying for it.

ACTION ITEM: Kate to ask Tom Schaaf why we need so much bandwidth... can we reduce bandwidth? Also could we turn off the Wi-Fi in April and turn it on again in December, to save money.

Alternative: could we share costs/bandwidth with Fitness Fanatics?

Also could we charge public for use (this idea not well received by the group). Wi-Fi is definitely a convenience for the public. Removing it would look bad for our org.

BarkerBiener update (Kate)

date moved to January 27th. Trail modified to avoid high-speed downhill.

Nordic Cup update (Matt)

\$10K in sponsorships raised; dates are Feb 13th and 14th.

ACTION ITEM: Andy will announce to Nordic Kids organizers, coaches, families, that Nordic Kids will be cancelled Feb 13 because of the Nordic Cup. Andy will encourage Nordic Kids to participate in JNQ or Lollipop race.

ACTION ITEM: Matt will request that JNQ board grants a waiver for race fees for the Lollipop race.

Brad needs to use a time-tracking app such as Harvest to track his SNSA time. This should be written into his contract. Also, the entire board should be tracking their time with Harvest because in-kind time can go toward grant applications and can be used to get a free discover pass from the state.

ACTION ITEM: Matt will pilot time-logging app and procedures starting Jan 1, 2019.

Winterfest

Sponsorships will help but this event is still in the red. Some board members question the value of winterfest but others feel it is an important part of our culture. See how it goes this year and may revisit/eliminate in future.

Loppet (Brad) **ACTION ITEM:** Kate to ask Brad, Kara, Chris, about Loppet March 3 instead of March 10. Andy to run March 3 Loppet by Nordic Kids.

Nordic Kids (Andy)

Nordic Kids Olympics format is changing into an end of the year party rather than competition. Have separate morning and afternoon sessions. Now that Feb 13 is cancelled, a Sunday session could replace the Feb 13 session. Still looking into other options. Coaches meeting was last week. Dec 15 there is a coaches training session. David Lawrence to give continuing ed training December 22-23. Andy is working with Lisa Sunderman to get a PSIA trainer in for kid-specific instructor training. Future years, individuals may be asked to cover their own continuing ed training. Or SNSA covers a small number of trainers and they train other coaches in return. Andy has gotten the NK skate skis waxed. Andy continues to seek sponsors for Nordic Kids programs. May be able to get a free iron from Toko for Nordic Kids.

Action: Kurt to connect Andy with the Toko Rep.

Action: Board members should seek sponsorships by kid-directed businesses such as orthodontists, dentists, pediatricians, kid yoga studio. Share ideas or specific contacts with Andy.

We could also ask Nordic Kids families that are already doing business with local kid-oriented businesses to leverage their relationships for sponsorships on our behalf.

T-Team/Race Team (Kate)

Chris Sharman has unpaid assistant coaches. T team is growing and needs formal assistant coaches. Chis Sharman needs a contract for hi coaching. Until then he is a volunteer. Race team goes to Bend race next weekend Dec 15-16.

Adaptive (Peter)

2 universal sit skis to be shipped to Spokane from Sun Valley soon. Receipts from Robin Redman need to be reimbursed. March 2 is an adaptive event: sit ski celebration. Adaptive skiing to be integrated in Langlauf and JNQ. Adaptive ski has to compete with indoor winter adaptive sports. There is an ongoing attempt to improve adaptive access to trails in town that will help with that.

Adaptive instructors are needed. Robin Redman seeks our help in recruiting them.

Action item: Peter to arrange for Brad to announcement adaptive instructor/facilitator training opportunity as 2-minute message.

Miscellaneous

An organization called "She Jumps" wants to have a Nordic training program for their woman-athletes. They had a joint application to the state for this event.

Event-related items (plates, utensils, storage bins) were transferred from Mike Powers' house to Shawn McLaughlin's storage warehouse in Spokane Valley for long-term storage. We may want to retrieve it at some time for future events. Other items might be at Sunderman house, Selkirk Lodge loft, other places. Are there hats, buffs, any other items that we have available for sale that are not currently accounted for? We need an electronic inventory of Spokane Nordic items.

Action item: Colin to collate this inventory. He will establish a format for submitting an item to the list and share that format information with the board.

Fees for web-based transactions are not transparent. Web-based sales are not currently done by Shopify; may want to reconfigure the website to Shopify. Need to discuss this with Brad. Matt may be able to help with logistics.

Action item: Brad to discuss/explain choice of current system at next meeting.

Adjourn