

PRESENT BOARD MEMBERS: Jay Wisor, Andy Andersen, Lisa Sunderman, Kurt Gauss, Dave Yaddon, Mike Gridley, Kate Burns, Mike Powers

ABSENT BOARD MEMBERS: Petru Groza, Elizabeth Schoedel, Alison Liaiboe

OTHERS PRESENT: Susan Engel (potential member), Brad Thiessen, George Bryant

### **RACE TEAM/T-TEAM**

George Bryant visiting to talk about race team vs (proposed) skijoring on Thursdays competing for trails.

PNSA was 6<sup>th</sup> of 10 teams at nationals. Other higher scoring teams are larger. Teams can take up to 21 male, 21 female. PNSA had 34 total. Annaby Canning (George took charge of her coaching this year without her paying... her family donated money to SNSA on her behalf), Patrick Korus, Lauren Potyk represented Mt. Spokane.

Conversation indicated the influence of our racing programs on the quality of grooming. JNQ requires professional grooming and requires a state permit filed this year by Lisa Sunderman. Can be done on very short notice. Grooming must be approved by a technical director representing USSA in order for JNQ race to occur. Also need a timing mechanism that meets USSA standards. Bend, Methow and Spokane are the hosts of JNQs within PNSA.

Will George serve as coach again? Yes. This year and "for a couple of years at least". George has a couple of potential successors in mind for race team. Van is running fine but we should think about trading it in because parts are hard to find for this 2001 vehicle.

George needs new test skis to be used at start of races. Needs wax and will buy it in the next few weeks.

**ACTION ITEM: Elements Massage is a wax sponsor... the board needs to thank them.**

Brad Thiessen not receiving emails from George at/after races to publicize our team.

**ACTION ITEM: Jay send email to remind George that he needs to put Brad on his email list.**

T team: Chris Sharman currently in bereavement and not communicating... no update there.

### **GROOMING**

Dave update on grooming committee: board noted a lack of transparency about who is on the grooming committee and why. George Momany has been plugging holes in the process. K Burns trying to work with D Dupuis to get grooming straightened out.

**ACTION ITEM: Look into alpine groomers as a source of grooming resources.**

WRAC meeting is in May; need to put in a request for grooming support there. Lisa is on the agenda for WRAC in May and can pitch grooming resources. Diana Dupuis says cannot do work related to grooming until December but Steve Christensen did work well in advance. Dave Yadon continues as grooming liaison.

Groomer might need a strategy for grooming when it is not possible to groom all trails (all trails between Selkirk and jct 1 vs one trail from each junction to the next. There is a priority map for grooming but it is not being enforced. Linder is essential for several uses and should be prioritized. Christmas grooming budget may not have been used. There is some grooming budget remaining. Lisa will have to explain why we didn't use it at WRAC meeting in May.

Recreational trails grant from federal government. We groom with snowmobile. It needs fixed or replaced. Rec trails grant from federal govt can be used to replace it. Application due in Nov 2018 for funding in 2020. RCO is the committee that makes decisions. Competitive bidding; we buy, grant reimburses. Community matching required @ 20%. Volunteer hours and donations can go toward the contribution. Can postpone this until next state government biennium (2020). Need to get public support and matching funds by 2020 if we do postpone.

Related to grooming: we had approval for trail-widening but it has yet to be done. We want to do it this summer. Trail Days coordinator: possibly Chris DeForest? Todd Dunnfield?

**ACTION ITEM: Ask Diana@ State Parks for some support of the trail days coordinator. Perhaps she could offer a free Discover Pass in trade for this trail maintenance service.**

## **ADULT LESSONS**

\$2.8K earned over 203 lessons. About half (\$1.35K) went to PSIA membership and certifications. Some students also got SNSA membership (others got lessons through city parks). Some lessons translated into memberships. Not clear which memberships can be attributed to the lessons. Brad thinks he can figure that out. Sheet handed out by Lisa indicated which of the lessons and how many students were through parks and rec. They advertise our lessons free via their brochures.

## **NORDIC KIDS**

Nordic Kids brings in about 9K; 4K is spent on Nordic Kids... net income from Nordic Kids is about \$5000.

Andy: 20% of families provided feedback via survey sent by Brad. Concerns: report cards; certificates; pins; were not valued by the parents. Olympics were very positively received by families. Concerns about grooming were expressed.

**ACTION ITEM: Forward grooming feedback to Diana Dupuis.**

Bigger groups with multiple coaches might be better for the future so there is flexibility within groups (in part because some coaches are not reliable and we need subs).

Another possibility: have a Christmas session to warm up for the season. There is confusion about the names of the different Nordic Kids groups. Maybe change the group names. Signup needs to be more informative with regard to student skill levels. Also, are kids interested in being on same team as friends? Report cards are not valuable to parents/kids but very valuable to Nordic Kids organizers.

**ACTION ITEM: Rhonda resigned so we need a replacement for morning NK coordinator. Rob Stevens will (hopefully) continue as PM Nordic Kids coordinator.**

Mike Powers suggests stipends or some form of compensation for revenue-earning programs. Also Nordic Kids Olympics needs a support team: a central coordinator, a team organizer and a potluck

coordinator. Some concerns about the Olympics being too long. Kids run out of energy. Do we need to come up with ways to shorten it? Plan earlier next year so that we can plan a little more in advance.

**ACTION ITEM: Do we need to perform background checks on all Nordic Kids coaches for legal reasons?**

George asks about parent volunteers at Nordic Kids. Who is volunteering? Andy: Most parents are, but not the whole season. Kate suggests that we have a spreadsheet that obligates them to help. Kurt: more generally, we need a culture of volunteerism that is lacking at this time.

Andy: former Nordic kids are eager to coach, but need adults to participate alongside. Kurt: this could be a community service event for teens (community service is mandatory in high school).

## **RANGERS**

Another community service option: Some rangers want to be junior park rangers/ ski patrollers. Need to work more on prevention/caution rather than rescue. Should advanced rangers have additional options: advanced rangers vs. junior patrollers? Mike Burns, Frank Burns, Sam Schneider all like this and could help but do not have the time. Kurt has one more year with Rangers. Needs a successor. Mt Spokane alpine has a junior patroller program.

**ACTION ITEM: Mike Burns look into getting a Nordic arm of the Mt. Spokane alpine junior patrollers. Kurt skeptical that we need that level of complexity (curriculum, costs etc).**

## **MICA PEAK TRAILS**

Last year, Todd Dunfield agreed that we would give \$1K to Liberty Lake-Mica Peak trails development efforts. This would principally be \$1K volunteer time. We have to commit in form of a letter from our board to the Spokane County Parks rep, letter due March 31.

**ACTION ITEM: Mike Powers will write a draft of letter and share with the board.**

**ACTION ITEM: Thank you cards for people who provided services this season. Who do we send to: George Momany, Robin Redman, (Chris Sharman?)**

## **CHAMPIONS AMONG US EVENT**

Is it worth it for us? Brad pro: get people together as a community and pitch our organization in the pre-season. We make \$4.4K from it. Kate con: organizing this event burns people out. Who will volunteer to take this on? Maybe it depends on the goal. Is this a fundraiser or a community builder? If a fundraiser, we need to specify what will be bought with the money. What are we raising funds for? Decide this at the retreat. Susan might volunteer if goal is clear. Overall the event is well received and fun but make sure it has a focus and a leader. Mike Gridley was on last year's committee. Gridley-sell beer/wine glasses; Sunderman- sales; needed volunteers- food delivery and food service.

**ACTION ITEM: reserve the McKinley room for Champions Event, fall 2018.**

## **BRAD STATUS**

Brad under contract with us until end of June. As contractor, Brad is not obligated to solicit sponsorships. Brad summarizes his obligations for rest of this year through June: get events placed on the calendar and prepare for 2018-2019 season. New and unexpected things (changes to website,

grooming challenges, cross-train ski team) are a time sink. Contract vs employee: Brad accepts whatever we decide willingly, but recommends employee so that he can have something at stake. As contractor, his role is very circumscribed. Kate indicates that the board will have to decide what happens after end of June at the retreat next month. Our budget has increased 400% over 6 yrs and Brad has been important in staying on top of the events (Winterfest, Loppet etc).

## **LOPPET**

Kate: Loppet was a major success. Good food. Well organized. Possibility was raised that the Loppet aid station could be an overnight campsite for rangers. This year's course was great. We should keep it for next year.

## **TRAIL MAPS**

The pocket maps; junction signage; other maps are not consistent. Need to make them uniform, especially trail difficulty ratings. Brad Thiessen, George Bryant, Mike Powers interested.

**ACTION ITEM: Brad will look into costing this map improvement.**

## **ACTION ITEMS IN PREPARATION FOR APRIL RETREAT**

**ACTION ITEM: Kate to poll for Weekday evening or Sunday afternoon for April retreat.**

**ACTION ITEM: Mike Powers to verify retreat- 2-yr term renewal. Each member note when he/she started on board and be prepared to be renewed as appropriate.**

**ACTION ITEM: Lisa Sunderman to send report about adaptive skiing from Robin Redman to board; Kate to send thank you note to Robin Redman on behalf of board.**

**ACTION ITEM: Kate to forward a message about Barkerbiener race and skijoring to board.**

**ACTION ITEM: Brad forward the list of sponsors/potential sponsors to board.**