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| Meeting Name: | Kachemak Nordic Ski Club BOD Monthly Meeting |
| Date/Time of Meeting: | Wednesday, April 5, 2023 6:36 – 9:05 PM |
| Meeting Leader: | Mike Gracz |

**Attendees:**

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| Mike Gracz-President | X | Derek Bynagle -Vice President | X | Cameale Johnson -Secretary | X | Peter Crimp - Treasurer | X | Derek – Admin Manager | X |
| Bob Glen | X | Kyra Harty |  | Melissa Cloud | X | Martin Schuster | X | Kenny Daher | X |
| Guests: Dave Brann; Andrew Peter; David Stutzer; Stephanie Greer | | | | | |  | |  | |

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| **Agenda Items** | **Discussion** | **Action & follow up** |
| Approval of Agenda | Agenda approved as presented |  |
| Approval of BOD meeting minutes | * March 1st meeting minutes approved as presented |  |
| Marathon Report | * It was a great event! 101 registered skiers. A half dozen or so scratched. Everyone completed with a couple of machine assisted finishes. Four skiers were pulled off the course due to weather. The participants were aged 10 to 76. 43 were local skiers, the rest were from Anchorage, including UAA, the Valley and Fairbanks. Two individuals were from out of state. No injuries reported. More than 50 local volunteers worked to put the event on. 89 people went to the afterparty. * The event netted $3557 which is greater than budgeted * Proposal for paid marathon coordinator for next year – the marathon draws a lot of out-of-town skiers vs other KNSC events which are primarily for locals; $3000 stipend for an event coordinator was suggested * To advertise & promote it knowing we do not have permission to cross a lot of private land could be a problem. If the event was highly advertised, a landowner could say it cannot cross their property. The private land is primarily in the Crossman Ridge area. * AK has a law that anybody that allows recreation on their property will not be held liable if they fill out an agreement? AK does have tort immunity for land owners of recreational use easements. * Historically there was an effort to get landowners to sign off on the land agreements but there has been no recent attempts to get land owner agreements; it is unclear if the discussion was about an agreement separate from a recreational use easement * This issue prompted some discussion about obtaining permission from landowners for ski trails that cross private land KNSC does not have permission for; Dave Stutzer offered to do this for the Crossman Ridge area * The idea of bringing the Marathon back to McNeil was briefly discussed including alternating the venue between McNeil and Lookout * Suggestion that KNSC needs an event coordinator for all events, not just the marathon | * Consider increasing the Marathon budget next fiscal year * Keep event coordinator on the “to discuss” list |
| Admin Report - Derek | * Just a couple of new memberships. Total # of memberships (not individuals) is up 4% over last year. Total # of individuals is up roughly 8% over last year. * Very busy working on recent events; will be working on the Jr Nordic ski rental returns |  |
| Website Report – Peter, Derek & Mike | * Some issues keeping everything updated across assorted platforms; having one platform was the goal of revising the website; KNSC now uses Square Space and Club Express | * Website subcommittee will review whether Square Space can actually meet KNSC’s needs |
| Treasurer’s Report - Peter | * Financials reviewed; most of our revenues are in but most of our expenses are not. Budget is on track; @ $58,000 in checking account * Cameale, Mike, and Peter met with Homer Bookkeeping to review several accounting procedures. Homer Bookkeeping would like to attend a Board meeting to educate the board about our finances at the September meeting prior to our October budget meeting. * CAP funding has increased so KNSC received more than anticipated; this money can be used for trail maintenance | * Peter will review funds available for summer maintenance * Review all summer maintenance needs for all areas at the May meeting; allocate how much money each area will get |
| Equipment Report - Bob | * Report reviewed; lots of equipment = lots of problems * Two newest ATVs continue to be problematic; both are 2021 models * The oldest snowmachine is finally beyond repair and needs replacing. The ordering window closes by the end of March. An email vote was taken. * Recommend ordering Polaris ATV for next season; cost with everything KNSC requires on the machine @ $17,500 | * KNSC Board approved ordering a Skidoo Scandic snow machine with the usual equipment options (bumpers, trailer hitch, etc) via an email vote 3/20 * Discuss ordering ATV in May |
| President's Report - Mike | * Troopers at Lookout – Recent problems with snowmachiners riding on Lookout ski trails. Troopers responded on the second call along with adjacent landowners. The snowmachiners were not cited for trespassing but were cited for other violations. If it happens again, they will be cited for trespass * Bibs & race supplies; blue course markers – will probably need to spend money on race supplies * High School ski gear – they need skis for their better skiers who cannot afford the gear; this will be discussed at the annual meeting * Business/member recognition – Banner signs at Lookout listing business sponsors are not accurate; * Trail multiuse spillover – somehow Eveline has turned into a multiuse area including walkers & bikers; a sign has appeared at the Eveline entrance that walkers should walk on the side opposite the track which leaves the impression walking on ski trails is acceptable. | * Derek will get accurate business sponsor banner signs for Lookout * Post sign at Eveline next ski season @ walking & bikes not permitted on groomed ski trails * Get input from KNSC general membership about using KNSC funds to purchase HS ski gear |
| Twitter Creek Gardens Hayfields Resolution - Mike | Resolution 2023-1 In Support of Twitter Creek Gardens agricultural use of the "Hayfields", including permanent fencing.   * Whereas the tradition of cross-country skiing has long been based upon sharing agricultural uses during the growing season with winter recreation uses during the snowy period outside of the growing season and; * Whereas the benefits of a locally grown food supply to the greater Homer, Alaska community are substantial and; * Whereas Twitter Creek Gardens has been in frequent, honest, and respectful conversation with KNSC about their proposed agricultural activities on The Hayfields and; * Whereas Twitter Creek Gardens does not wish to interfere with winter recreational trail use on The Hayfields and; * Whereas Kachemak Nordic Ski Club (KNSC) foresees no conflict with winter fencing, or any other agricultural activities proposed by Twitter Creek Gardens and; * Whereas experienced KNSC Volunteer grooming staff sees no conflict with winter trail grooming activities on The Hayfields, and; * Whereas experienced KNSC Volunteer groomers can foresee some potential benefits to trail maintenance from strategically placed fencing on The Hayfields and; * Whereas Twitter Creek Gardens is willing to work with KNSC toward their mutual benefit;   Therefore it is resolved that the KNSC Board of Directors is in unanimous support of Twitter Creek Garden's agricultural activities on "The Hayfields" . | * Approved Resolution 2023-1 |
| Alaska Ski Educational Foundation Grant | * Grant due 4/15 | * Mike will submit asking for money for Jr Nordic skis |
| Biathlon Equipment | * The infrared rifles are privately owned. Weekly events planned, running & biking during the summer; goal is 50 participants. Consider having KNSC host biathlon as an event of KNSC like Jr Nordic |  |
| Lower Baycrest Shed/Trails - Cameale | * Trails - HTA is requesting a cost share of $5065 dollars to put 200 ft of boardwalk in the area of Molly’s bench east and bottom of Serpentine trail east; NE corner of Homestead trail under Bob Swenson’s property; It needs to be 6-8ft wide to accommodate grooming, ATV, mowing equipment; hikers only need 3ft. HTA has the beams and just needs the top boards. HTA will install the boardwalk. * Lower Baycrest summer trail work – Dave Brann is requesting KNSC fund $2000 dollars’ worth of forest mulching for the Lower Baycrest Trails this summer.  The work will be on Headwaters Hwy, accessed from Dave’s house towards Headwaters Hwy. cutoff, down to the bridge at Diamond Creek.  The final decision of where to do the work will take place will depend on funding and input from other Lower Baycrest groomers. Alaska Eco Forestry will do the work. This is deferred to May meeting when all areas summer maintenance needs are discussed * Shed – The City of Homer is very willing to work with KNSC on putting in a shed at lower Baycrest. There will be components that the City should be able to assist with it. The City needs a Site Development Plan to review, provide input on, and help negotiate the path forward. This includes:      * + A map of the site development, trail routing, and structure location.   + Architectural specifications for the structure. Dimensions, structural details, utilities, functional intentions, maintenance plans, risk management, etc.   + A budget and proposed timeline for the development   A separate document was reviewed listing what is required, and the individuals involved. This project needs a manager who can have oversight & keep the individual players on track with their responsibilities. Someone who can make decisions. Someone who can coordinate meetings between all individuals involved. Someone who can pursue funding for the project, which will probably be a Rasmussen grant. Cameale will have oversight of the project. This does not include applying for funding grants. | * Approved $2500 to HTA for summer trail construction * Cameale will be the “project manager” for the lower Baycrest shed project |
| McNeil/Eveline Report – Cameale & Kenny | * CIRI approved rerouting a section of trail at the top of Wolf Ridge. They also approved extending KNSCs permit until June 15th to accommodate brushing etc that needs to take place for the reroute. * McNeil porta-potti removed 4/3. Dave Eberle has volunteered to figure out a solution to the porta-potti/outhouse situation at McNeil. * Eveline toilet – State Parks is requesting the Office of Management and Budget authorize changing the location of a toilet from Crooked Creek to Eveline.  Eveline is the top priority for toilet replacement on the Kenai Peninsula, so they have justification for the switch.  It is in the capital budget the legislature is currently working on. If approved by the legislature, it then needs to survive not getting vetoed by the governor. * Eveline dogs – Skiers ski off while their dogs’ poo behind them. It is a summertime issue too but usually the walkers are closer to their dogs so can see where they pooed. An increasing summertime issue also are the negative interactions between leashed vs unleashed dogs approaching leashed dogs. Lots of ideas have been tossed around about how to get dog owners to pick up their dog’s poo. Nothing definitive has come out of the discussions. Eveline is a State Park. Alaska State Parks require dogs to be on a leash. This has not been enforced.   + KNSC will notify their membership AK State Parks requires dogs to be on a leash   + More signs will be put up. In the past these signs AND posts have been removed from the park by unauthorized individuals. * McNeil summer trail work – estimates are being obtained from Eco Forestry | * KNSC will notify the membership AK State Parks requires dogs to be on a leash |
| Sea to Ski - Derek | * Another great event with lots of families |  |
| Groomer Recognition Ball - Melissa | * Grace Ridge on a night a food truck is there; Jane Wiebe does a big song & dance for the event but may not be available | * Melissa will organize the Groomer Recognition Ball |
| Comments from the audience on anything | * Dave Brann expressed appreciation for the trail counters |  |
| Comments from the BOD | * Melissa has talked w Milli Martin about the picnic table which is sitting in the cottonwoods on her property; still working on signage; will eventually organize a dedication for the table * Derek has concerns about the time it takes to write the newsletter; he encouraged individuals submitting to the newsletter to actually write up the article they are submitting instead of asking him to do it |  |
| Minutes prepared by Cameale Johnson, KNSC Secretary, 4/6/2023 |  | **Next Meeting: May 3rd** |