

**Kachemak Nordic Ski Club Board Meeting  
February 3rd 2016 6:30pm Cook Inlet Keeper Building**

Mike Gracz Secretary  
Jan Spurkland President  
Nicky Szarzi, Vice President  
Carlin Rauch  
Andrew Peter  
Stacey Buckelew  
Derek Bynagle  
Richard Burton (arrives 6:42)  
Glenn Seaman (6:46)

Additional:

Kevin Walker, former KNSC board member  
John Miles, groomer at Lookout Trails  
Claire Waxman, member KNSC and Snomads  
Mike Byerly, former KNSC board member, groomer at Lookout Trails  
Alan Parks, Former KNSC president, CTC member  
Adam DePesa, Snomads employee

Call to order 6:36

Approve agenda with guests moved to top to make comments

Additions?

Kevin Walker: Epic 7.6

Add ski for women, sea to ski 7.7

Ms. Szarzi moves to approve changes, seconded by Mr. Bynagle approved.

Comments from the audience:

Claire Waxman: I'm here to talk about the Connector Trail Committee (CTC- formed to execute a grant obtained by Snomads to work with KNSC on a trail connecting Diamond Ridge to Ohlson Mt. Rd.), and the Homer Epic.

Mike Byerly: same

Adam DePesa: same

John Miles: appreciate signage, need to replace two broken signs (U are Here) at Lookout Trails

Kevin Walker: Wine and cheese; Sea to ski? Epic.

Need a resolution of support by KNSC to liquor board for serving wine at the wine and cheese tour.

Alan Parks: Gala dinner for HS Nordic program/team also needs a resolution for liquor license. Discussion on CTC.

Item 8.3 is moved to top of the agenda: MOU with Snomads

Adam DePesa wondered what was needed from KNSC to move forward. There was lots of discussion on what has occurred to date, and concern from KNSC that Snomads was

proceeding without KNSC knowledge and without transparency (especially in a Snomads meeting about defining a route from Diamond Ridge to Lookout Mt.), and without signing an MOU first. The MOU would define the interests of each group involved (Kachemak Ski Club would also be a co-signer) so that these interests could be upheld to respective memberships. It would also define how consensus worked, a process for dispute resolution, and a process for communication.

Next Snomads board meeting: 6 PM Thursday next week (11 Feb) at Ray Kranich's house-uphill from Jack Gist Park, 6pm.

Snomads general Membership meeting: 18 February

Next CTC meeting is 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb, 6:30 PM at the Library.

The discussion on the CTC MOU ends around 7:30, when all of the guests with the exception of Kevin Walker and Claire Waxman leave.

A nearly complete transcript of the MOU conversation is appended to the end of these minutes.

Motion to approve the minutes of 6 January by Mr. Bynagle, seconded by Ms. Buckelew, approved.

Current Membership contributions via Maddie O'Laire (KNSC administrative assistant): \$18,050  
Revenue plan for membership to make up the \$5k difference between this figure and our goal.

1 Targeted mailing

2 Newspaper ads

3 Trailhead Maps with sponsor logos for business memberships

Mr. Seaman suggests a newspaper article on skiing, Ms. Buckelew suggests that this could be a spin on the typical article the papers do on Ski for Women, which is this coming weekend, Mr. Spurkland will task Maddie O'Laire (KNSC administrative assistant) with this.

Claire Waxman brought up the idea of installing webcam(s) on trail system(s) because in town it looks rainy, when actually the skiing conditions are quite good. All agreed that was a good idea. Mr. Spurkland will talk to Maddie O'Laire about this.

Mr. Bynagle moves to approve the revenue plan, seconded by Mr. Seaman, approved.

#### Website

Mr. Burton has a new test website installed on public site that is not quite ready: [kachemaknordicskiclub.org/wp](http://kachemaknordicskiclub.org/wp). He needs help to reorganize & redo content into the new format, a website group is formed of himself, Mr. Gracz, Ms. O'Laire, and Mr. Bynagle.

Current financial reports from Mr. Burton:

KNSC has about \$34k to spend without a vote.

KNSC should receive a little more revenue from the Besh Cup.

Homer Women's Nordic probably has a little more money in their account than they know about because he has received checks outside of the online registration system.

Membership income in cash (no in-kind) is close to \$16k, plus an additional \$1650 in corporate/business sponsorships.

Actual vs. budgeted values are pretty close. We underestimated some office expenses.

No areas raise need for concern.

Mr. Spurkland noted that the signs for parking at Sunset Loop are up. The message is out by email and Facebook.

#### Events

Everything is on track for Jr Nordic, Ski for Women, and the Kenai Borough High School Ski Races.

Need helpers to sell tickets at the backcountry film fest on the 11<sup>th</sup>

Posters were distributed for the Wine and Cheese tour on the 14<sup>th</sup> at Lookout, stops at houses and prizes are lined up.

Nicky Szarzi moves for two resolutions in support of liquor permits for the High School Ski Team Gala dinner and the Wine & Cheese tour, Mr. Bynagle seconds the motions, they are approved.

#### Friday Night Lights

Move it to near a full moon (19 February), use candles in jars and LED lights to avoid transportation logistics with tiki torches and kerosene, and switch the venue to McNeil, where there is snow.

#### Marathon

Deland Anderson is excited about organizing the event this year 12 March, to begin at the Lookout Trails. He will have either a larger loop groomed (17k) or, if sufficient snow by then, will follow the traditional connector trail route to Diamond Ridge. The Homer Cycling Club scheduled their Fat Bike Festival that same weekend, we should work with them especially in securing a venue for the post-event awards dinner.

Mr Burton will put up the online registration system: 2 levels based on membership and the honor system. T-shirts w/current sponsors but W/O a date (if we need to cancel we can use the shirts in another year), requires 2-3 weeks to receive the order.

#### Epic

March 18<sup>th</sup>

Change format to a brevet system where there are checkpoints but the goal is to finish it, and not to be a competitive event in order to lessen the volunteer workload. Mr. Spurkland hopes we don't lose money.

#### Sea-Ski

Need an organizer.

Will likely require a route change because the lower Baycrest trails have not seen skiable snow for a couple of years now. Reschedule from March 26<sup>th</sup>.. (Easter is 27<sup>th</sup>) to April 2?

Outreach to membership and Homer Cycling Club and running club for an organizer?

#### Strategic Plan

Restructuring committees One afternoon meeting on either Feb 22 or 23<sup>rd</sup>; we are waiting for confirmation from Foraker.

#### Old business

We need \$125 for perpetual plaques to honor volunteers at Lookout and McNeil buildings, approved.

#### Grants

The application process for Homer Foundation funding is probably not worth the effort because of the the reduced amount of money available, but it does demonstrate support from the City of Homer to KNSC, so Mr. Burton will complete the application, which is due next week.

Mr. Burton moved to amend the budget to show \$2000 anticipated revenue from local city grants (which is normally included), and add \$2000 expenses for trail maintenance 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Szarzi, passes.

#### Comments

Kevin Walker: thanks Claire Waxman for representing KNSC at the Snomads meeting.

Ms. Szarzi: Wise Services can't cross Anchor River with their sno-cat groomer (to reach McNeil and Wolf Ridge trail system).

Mr. Seaman: Offers to volunteer with events but can't lead due to erratic schedule.

Ms. Buckelew: Thanks volunteers for Besh Cups, especially Mr. Spurkland. Homer Cycling Club wants to partner with KNSC.

Mr. Peter: Dave Brann will step down from equipment directorship. Will need someone to take over. He does not want to manage equipment transport and paperwork but will continue grooming.

Mr. Spurkland: some names have come up as a replacement, but no one wants to step up.

Mr. Bynagle: Thanks. Jr. Nordic was awesome. More partnerships are better in a small town.

Claire Waxman: KNSC members should join Snomads to show support.

Mr. Spurkland: The multi-use building at Lookout gets tons of good use. Great positive comments from trail users!

There were 288 competitors at the Besh Cup races- the biggest event we've had. Suggestions from the big-wigs of the organizing group for improvement were minor, which is a big change from the last time.

Mr. Seaman: A suggestion for future Besh Cup races is to have a runner deliver hot soup from concession stand to timers, who are standing out in the cold for long periods.

Adjourned at 8:50

[Transcript of conversation between Adam Depesa of Snomads, and KNSC board members and others in attendance:

AD: Look at MOU: what is it that KNSC needs to move forward?

JS: Reflecting on the KNSC board meeting in January: 1) we need to define roles 2) we need a transparency of process- that messages put out to the public are approved jointly.

AD: What do you mean by "roles defined"?

JS: There are 3 distinct organizations in the MOU, which presents a challenge, roles let everyone be aware of what each group is doing: especially with outreach. For example, Snomads members may be concerned with working with a non-motorized group and KNSC members may be concerned with working with a motorized group. Messages (rumors) are floating around.

AD: No current Snomads board member was involved with the original grant. As far as defining roles, a loose MOU allows flexibility, which we need because we do not have a road map on how to proceed. Pinning down specific roles might be too rigid since we don't have an action plan. A common ground could be promoting winter recreation. Once we get a plan, then roles could be defined as necessary. Transparency is a great idea I don't see how the MOU prevents it, and there is a clause about communicating with property owners.

MG: The MOU also includes consensus clause to prevent one group from running...

APeter: Do you have any updated information since the last version of the MOU?

AD: Snomads has discussed where do we want point A & B? There is no harm in organizations examining a potential route internally, individually.

SB: I am concerned that there have been meetings already: this should be a collaborative effort of parties working toward a common goal: where is the collaborative process if you've decided where the trail is going to be? What's KNSC's vision for the trail? It may seem that we are caught up in process, but we need to accept an MOU, then perhaps go to an MOA, which is a more binding agreement before action is taken.

AD: That makes sense, and it is kind of the route we've been taking. We are working on grant reporting with state and we want to see progress, currently it's: we're working on an MOU.

Routes: when we get to this point here are some ideas, nothing defined, literally just an idea.

JS: In January, KNSC was presented with an MOU, we had concerns, therefore we sent the MOU back: were our concerns addressed?

AD: Meeting here now is how we are addressing concerns. Sitting down to hammer out how we will work together.

JS: Looked at loose MOU, we weren't comfortable with it, we need an MOU to move forward.

KNSC is concerned that other stuff is happening: please address concerns by returning an MOU with concerns addressed, I'd be happy to spend time working this out.

ClaireW: I went to the Snomads meeting, and lots of tempers were raised because nothing was happening. Snomad members were ready to offer ultimatums so they decided to talk about a route because members needed to see concrete progress. I don't think its going outside of Snomads. I extended an invitation to Snomads to join KNSC to diffuse the polarization of the two groups. It is in KNSCs best interest to work with them. I don't want a motorized trail in front of my house [on Crossman Ridge]. Access across Crossman ridge will be difficult due to land ownership. I recognize that first part of working together needs to be the MOU.

GS: is this grant money dedicated generally, or to creating a Crossman ridge trail?

AD: The grant is specific to a trail connecting Diamond ridge to Ohlson Mt Rd.

JS: Do you have grant wording- was our Marathon trail mentioned specifically?

AD: I do not have the grant wording.

APeter: Are there dates? Timelines?

AD: The grant was awarded to Snomads in October 2014. with KNSC as a partner to implement a multi-use trail.

APeter: So we weren't in on the process for 12 mos.

AD: Neither were we, no current board member was part of the grant submission: apologies?

DB: We started on the wrong foot

JS: What do you need from us to move forward?

AD: What would you like to see defined? Specific roles defined?

SB: I would like to have everyone's interest laid out in general roles to ensure that interests are maintained- clubs need to uphold their interests to their memberships

Define consensus and a process toward dispute resolution

AD: OK

SB: If we disagree how to end

AD: There is a six-month time limit in the current version of the MOU.

CW: What are the concerns of KNSC?

JS: There have been partnerships between us- a process of communication needs to be outlined, for example everyone should have known that Snomads was discussing routes-

CW: I liked that they started discussing route, so it wasn't political- their anger needed to be released. Talking about routes seemed to work, everyone was happy and felt like a process was begun...

JS: Absolutely. Communication process? Anything else?

AParks: There is a flaw in what CW said: what we brought forward: co-chairmanship, but snomads didn't want to- co chair becomes an open process, more transparent. We want to be successful.. first step is understanding the fundamentals of defining interests.

JS: other comments? Important that these comments are to working group...

AD: I work for snomads: co-chair idea: as grant holder snomads is accountable to grant.

SB: How is the goal of the grant being defined? Is the goal defined as trail miles developed? Collaborate?

AD: The goal is a trail- a multi-use trail connecting Diamond Ridge to Ohlson mt.

GS: Only one trail?

AD: 60' easement is wide- could have a brush screen between two trails- it is for one trail.

GS: I worked in process a lot as my career: Of course we should have had this conversation much earlier because it is important to lay out our respective values, then both sides know what is important to each, forming a basis to move forward.

For example, I like quiet when skiing - a brush screen isn't sufficient.

AD: Thursday next week is Snomads board meeting- Ray Kranich's house- uphill from Jack Gist Park, 6pm. CTC meeting is 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb, 6:30 PM at the Library.

APeter- please send that information

AD: Yes. Our general membership meeting is the third Thursday in Feb (18<sup>th</sup>).]