

## **Kachemak Nordic Ski Club Board Meeting Minutes**

**April 6th 2016 6:30pm Cook Inlet Keeper Building**

Board members attending:

Carlin Rauch

Jan Spurkland, president

Nicky Szarzi, vice president

Stacey Buckelew

Glenn Seaman

Maddie O'Liare

Mike Gracz, secretary

Andrew Peter

Richard Burton, treasurer

Derek Bynagle

Audience:

Martin Renner

Michele Stenger

Derek Reynolds arrives at 6:55pm

Meeting begun at 6:35 pm with introductions all around

### **1. Approval of Agenda**

Change the date of the next meeting (today's date was listed)

Nicky Szarzi moves to approve the agenda as amended, Carlin Rauch seconds, agenda approved.

### **2. Approval of BOD meeting minutes**

***Motion:** Approval of draft minutes from Mar. 2nd, 2016*

No one can find the minutes, which were sent soon after the last meeting. Motion is tabled until next meeting- Mike Gracz will resend the minutes

### **3. Admin Report – Maddie O'Laire**

#### 3.1 Membership:

We had 10-15 new members last month- Ms. O'Laire lists the number of new members by membership category, then states that the total is 244 memberships, 512 members- \$19,510 total income.

in-kind donations were around \$90

This adds up to a total income of \$21,040 including one grant (\$100)

Richard Burton passes a couple of more memberships over to Ms O’Laire.

About 100 mailings went out a few weeks ago, so we should see a few more memberships coming in.

Jan Spurkland states that this is better than last year, and seems pretty good overall, Ms. O’Laire’s efforts online and by mail seem to have helped increase membership.

Richard Burton states that the current revenue is a couple thousand below the year before last and years before that.

Mr. Burton, Ms. Buckelew and Ms. O’Laire state that the mailed paper form helps get the word to those not online.

Andrew Peter asks for suggestions on improvement?

Mr. Burton wonders if a renewal email were sent to each member for next year?

Ms O’Laire states that a mailing before the annual meeting might be good, then suggests that the paper form should be streamlined to make data entry more efficient because a lot of time is wasted because the paper forms don’t match the electronic database very well.

#### **4. Website Report**

4.1 Mr Burton states that we are close to launching the new site, He should meet with the web group to go over a few details- and is hoping to have it up by May BoD meeting.

#### **5. Treasure’s Report – Mr Burton**

5.1 2016 Budget Report: There are a few changes, but overall, generally lower expenses due to lower snow cover.

We should consider adjusting budgeted amounts for programs to reflect what we really want, for example Homer Women’s Nordic expenses are slightly over the 75% of revenue we initially agreed on (\$3800 expenses and \$5000 revenue = \$50 over).

The Ski Marathon T-shirts are much more expensive this year (we only sold 5-6 shirts this year), and since we mainly use them to advertise supporting businesses, maybe we could have another way to promote those businesses that’s win-win (since 5-6 t-shirts isn’t much advertising).

Mr. Seaman suggests that instead of an event t-shirt we have general KNSC t-shirts. He has received compliments on his, and questions on how to get one.

Ms O’Laire states that the marathon t-shirt cost (\$950) was barely equal to the business memberships (\$1000).

Mr Burton indicated that advertising was not budgeted for and that the \$300 in Epic costs/expenses are mainly accounting housecleaning due to refunding of race fees (the event was cancelled).

Ms O’Laire- Indicated that our facebook page was pretty popular, she has been viewing page view metrics, and it might be a good way to increase early memberships.

Mr Spurland Asks for Community Revenue sharing funding ideas?- Mr Burton replied that he needs to know about anything charged to this by mid-May. McNeil money is probably taken care of by contract grooming- so we need especially ideas for Diamond Ridge.

Mr Spurland indicated that it needs to be for non-transportable infrastructure, because we ran into a problem once when we bought grooming equipment that was later used in another community.

Mr Burton stated the we received a Homer Foundation, City of Homer grant for \$2400 of unrestricted funds.

## **7. KNSC Board Development –**

### 7.1 Events

#### 7.1.1 – Homer Epic Debrief

Mr Spurland: We need to decide what to do moving forward. 9 racers signed up, so the cost would have been too high, so the event was cancelled and the entry fees refunded. There was lots of interest from the statewide bike community. However most skiers went to the Oosik (a shorter race) because they hadn’t skied that much this year and didn’t feel ready for a 100km event. The response from past participants has been positive.

The highest participation was 2 year ago when 70 participated (100 signed up).

Our events should be means to something else that aligns with our mission statement- what is the goal of this event?

Mr Gracz offers that from his non-profit experience events are rarely money makers, especially when considering volunteer time, which does have a real cost in burnout of volunteers- for example Baycrest wasn’t being groomed one year due to the effort required to run the Epic. Realizing this, but also realizing that events do have benefits for organizations, it is frequently recommended that non-profits do one or two events really well, and make sure those events align with the mission statement.

Some discussion ensues of who will run the Epic in the future, although no one steps forward, and how to handle registration, how push to make the event for participants, when to schedule it, etc.

Mr Spurkland wraps up the discussion by asking for other organizers, and deciding in May to whether or not to host it next season.

Derek Reynolds (Homer Cycling Club): I want to move forward on developing summer bike trails at the Lookout trail system. What should we do next?

Mr. Burton asks if our lease with the Kenai Peninsula Borough allows new trails at Lookout?

Mr. Gracz states that these trails have seen a lot of planning, engineering, development, money, and effort put into them, so any additional trails should require engineering designs compatible with the current trail system to prevent problems with erosion. This is our premier trail system, it would be sad to let it deteriorate with improperly planned and constructed trails.

Mr Reynolds sees the need to get a trail planner on site to look at what can be done and what the costs might be. He also states that the Cycling Club needs a formal agreement with KNSC on how to proceed.

Mr Spurkland wraps up the discussion by stating the next 3 steps: check with Kenai Peninsula Borough, identify a developer, engineer/planner...one more...

## **8. New Business**

### 8.1 Fat Bike Impact Study

**Motion:** Andrew Peter makes a motion to obtain data on machine driven trails over various conditions, the motion is unclear and receives no second and fails.

Mr Peter states that he wants to open a dialog on bikes on ski trails, as there are lots of opinions but he wants facts.

Mr Burton replies that the opinions of our members matter.

Mr Gracz describes the use on other trails: in anchorage there are parallel trails, one allowing bikes the other not, and skiers prefer the trails without bikes. In Methow Valley, of 200 km of trails something like 15 km allow bikes, and most of those are completely separate from the ski trails, the one trail that allows both is accessed down a long rough road. In Canmore bikes are also on separate trails and during events bikes are banned- not just while the event is taking place, but during the lead-up and on off days, because athletes are training and the Provincial Park wishes to avoid potential collisions.

A survey of trail sharing conducted two years ago was examined.

## 8.2 Caribou Lake Summer Trail Project

**Motion: JS:** Approval of Letter of Support for Trail Improvement Grant

Shelley Erickson is putting together a development grant to replace the boardwalk leading from the Blue Shed (a trail to Caribou Lake accessed off of Basargin Rd.) with an oil company funding source, and seeks a letter of support.

Ms Buckelew offers the motion, Mr Burton seconds it, Ms Szarzi opposes, the motion passes 8-1.

**Motion:** Approval of work party adverts through KNSC mailing

Ms Erickson also wants to forward announcements of work parties by email to our members. Discussion ensues that mass emails need to be focused on club specific issues to prevent spamming our members. No motion is made. Someone suggests including an announcement of the project in our end-of-season mailing to our membership.

## 9. Old Business-

### 9.1 – Volunteer Appreciation

#### 9.1.1 Volunteer Plaques

Ms Carlin shows us the plaques- they look nice, everyone agrees. Need one for Baycrest.

The Branns (Dave and Molly) need recognition for their outstanding contributions over many years

Mr Spurkland suggests the annual meeting as a venue to recognize the Branns.

#### 9.1.2 Board Generated Thank You Cards

Mr Spurkland suggests that each board member write 10 thank you notes to volunteers and partners but we need a list. Ms Rauch has one list, and we could include the event organizers, and serve the list around electronically- on GoogleDrive.

9.2 - Partner Organizations Thank You- We will add partner organizations to the list above.

### 9.3 Snomad MOU Update

Mr spurkland displays a detailed map and draws the route that snomads are proposing, along section lines. The benefits of this route are that there are no private landowners that we would ask for both a motorized and non-motorized use. And there is minimal overlap with our currently mapped Marathon Trail.

## **10. Comments from the audience on any thing**

Michele Stenger appreciates all that the Board does, they are wonderful.

## **11. Comments from the BOD**

Mr Peter: Kathy Sarns has left and Dave Brann is leaving, we will have a big hole to fill.

Ms Buckelew: If we are giving up the Epic event- can we take on offering overnight tours- for example to Caribou Lake? Pop-up events are also suggested to general approval.

JS- It was good season, thanks. We don't need to make a profit every year- the revenues should benefit the membership at the time- they are the ones that contributed after all. We didn't buy equipment, so consider ways to spend the membership income. Several ideas are offered including restroom venting and trailhead web cams.

**Next Meeting: May 4th 6:30pm Cook Inlet Keeper Building**

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:45.**

Mike Gracz, secretary