# KACHEMAK NORDIC SKI CLUB BOARD MINUTES

**April 7, 2010** 

6:30pm, Kachemak Conservation Council Office

**PRESENT**: Richard Burton, Alan Parks, Tara Schmidt, Mike Byerly, Dave Brann, Molly Brann, Kenton Bloom, Kevin Walker, Jan Spurkland

ABSENT: None GUESTS: None

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by president Alan Parks.

.

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Agenda was amended to add a membership report, spruce bark beetle mitigation report, a report on Beluga Lake recreational development, and plans for Eveline this summer.

Richard moved to approve the agenda. Dave seconded. The agenda was approved as amended.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF 03/03

Richard moved to approve the minutes from the meeting of 03/03.. Dave seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

# **BUDGET REPORT:**

Tara submitted a report containing a midyear financial review. Current bank balance is about \$16000 but this does not include about \$6000 in income shown in the report that has not been collected yet, so the total balance is about \$22000. We have been notified of a Homer Foundation City Grant for \$4000 but have not received it yet. Alan also indicated that we have not yet received the revenue sharing money, but that it should arrive soon and would be about \$9200. Tara suggested that it would be good to have some operating capital when we do the ATI grant work since they may require that we pay for the work and then get reimbursed. Kenton said that they are usually very quick with the reimbursement. Dave pointed out that there is still some money for trail work projects that was allocated but has not been spent yet. Tara indicated that everyone should look at the budget to determine what expenses are still outstanding. Alan suggested we should bring this up at the May meeting.

## **EQUIPMENT REPORT:**

Dave gave a report on equipment status. Bill Strutz is interested in buying machine #1. The machine does require some minor repairs. We are asking \$3000 for it but may have to sell it for a little less than that. Dave suggested trying to get \$2800, but the exact

amount may require negotiation. This led to the following motion by Jan, seconded by Kevin:

Motion: The board of directors gives Dave authorization to negotiate a fair market value price for snow machine #1.

The motion passed unanimously.

Dave indicated that construction of the new blue and gold drag is proceeding. Steve Fisher is doing the design work. He is recommending some changes from the drag we have now. He sent a materials list that includes about \$1000 for parts and \$1000 for labor. This does not include the cost of 2 rams which will be about \$800. Kenton suggested that it would be good to have the comb on a separate ram. Alan would like to see it designed so that it could pull a track setter while grooming.

Dave indicated that the gas tank located at Sunset is empty and will not be refilled this year. Gas for additional grooming will have to be furnished from gas cans. He also emphasized that it is important for groomers to indicate how much gas they have used when grooming. A lot of grooming was done with the 2-stroke machines this year. These machines use a lot more gas.

There will be some additional expenses for repairs to the ginzu groomer and other regular maintenance.

Dave suggested that, if we have enough money, he would recommend purchasing another 4-stroke machine and that we sell the oldest 2-stroke machine.

Mike asked about how plowing is organized and who is responsible. Dave said that he is the lead person and is willing to continue in that role. However, he would like to have someone who is responsible for the actual plowing at each area and turn it over to them to make the day to day decisions.

#### **EVENTS:**

### Marathon:

Richard presented a summary of the marathon. We had 103 registered racers including several who prepaid but did not actually race. Net revenues for the event were about \$3500. This includes \$1083 from online registration with CCAK that they still need to send us. CCAK charged 5.3% plus \$1.00 per transaction to do the online registration. That came to \$92 for this event.

Dave commented that several people who had signed up for the 25k race were unhappy about the additional 5k that was added when we decided to make a single course. It was also suggested that we should have had an additional rest stop on Headwaters Hwy. as has been the case in the past. Kenton suggested that we should work on ideas to grow the race and market it. This is probably something for the Marathon committee to look at..

#### Sea to Ski:

Mike reported on the Sea to Ski Triathlon. He presented a report on the event. There were 93 participants and 25 volunteers. Net revenue from the event was \$660. There were a lot of bike spills but no injuries. Mike indicated that the insurance we purchased for the bike portion will actually cover us for the full year. It was the minimum amount for insurance and covers the board for liability. There was some discussion about raising the fee next year. Jan suggested we could probably raise it to \$25 without losing any entrants. Nothing was decided about this. It will be considered next year. Kevin suggested that it would be good to figure out how to have better communication among volunteers next year. Dave said the police were not monitoring the road crossing and we need to ensure someone is doing this.

## **COMMITTEE AND AREA REPORTS:**

### Website:

Richard presented a report detailing some possible website changes that he plans to look at this summer. These include looking into ways to implement online event registration through the website. This would require the ability to handle credit card transactions and have the communications encrypted. Possibilities for implementation include using a 3<sup>rd</sup> party site to handle the communication or obtaining a SSL certificate for our site and doing it ourselves. In either case, the actual credit card transaction would probably be done through PayPal. There would be some costs involved in any implementation of this, probably around \$200 per year. Richard asked for board permission to look into this. Actual expenses would be communicated to the board before any expenditure is made. There was no objection to pursuing this. Other possible changes include redoing the Home page to provide more dynamic information and changing the comments section of Trail Conditions so they are ordered with most recent comment first. Any of these changes would require some programming changes to the website, so it would be best to do them in the summer to minimize possible downtime due to programmer error.

## **MOA Committee:**

Alan, Dave, and Molly have been spearheading this effort. There is a need to formalize the process and to improve communication between the board and landowners. A committee meeting will be called in the near future to discuss MOA issues.

### **Membership:**

Molly gave a report on membership. We received about \$23000 in cash memberships and \$38000 in in-kind donations. There were 64 memberships at the \$25 minimum level, 131 at the \$50 level (mostly family memberships), and 67 who paid more than \$50. Molly asked if we should consider increasing the membership fee. This led to a discussion about membership and event fees, and how best to continue to fund the club's operations. Most board members liked keeping the minimum fee low to encourage membership. Jan suggested that we modify the membership form to encourage higher contributions based on how much the member skis. It was also suggested that we increase the event fees for non-members so there would be more incentive to become a

member. Alan suggested that we could join with other recreational groups to create a recreational service board that would be able to unify fundraising efforts. Dave indicated that this has been considered before and that there currently is a group working on it as a long term goal. Dave is a member of this group. He indicated that one problem with this approach is determining which non-profit groups should be included. The discussion ended with Molly indicating she would bring a revised membership form for consideration at the next board meeting.

# **Spruce Bark Beetle Program:**

Dave updated the board on plans for the borough's spruce bark beetle mitigation program. He has been communicating with Mike Fastabend on this and had a map from Mike showing the areas under consideration. It looks like what happens on borough property will not have much impact on the Baycrest ski trails. Dave is working with Mike to make recommendations that might help the club. One possibility would be help for making a parking lot in the demonstration forest area. Dave emphasized that nothing would be done with this before fall and he encouraged recommendations from other board members.

#### Lookout:

There was a meeting of the board with local landowners in the Lookout area on March 30 that produced general agreement on the goals of the ATI grant project. We need to have action on access to gravel. Alan will coordinate communication on the effort to obtain gravel locally from the DOT Ohlson Mountain gravel pit. This will include letters from the schools, the KNSC board, and possibly local property owners. The letters will emphasize the importance of the project and the cost savings from getting the gravel locally. We will make a formal application to Carl High of DOT and possibly try to have representative Seaton available for a teleconference discussion with DOT.

Kenton is responsible for implementation for the project. He said we have necessary permits. We will need borough right of way for the road past the parking lots to the turnaround. He is working on this and does not see a problem in obtaining this permission. Kevin asked about an environmental checklist. He said that Bill Luck indicated we need to do this. Kevin will send a copy of the checklist to Kenton and offered to help with filling it out.

## McNeil/Eveline:

Dave reported on plans for Eveline this summer. The plan is to create an accessible summer trail of about one half kilometer that would include a viewing platform. There is a 16x16 octagon located at Deep Creek that has been donated. Dave is planning on taking it apart and moving it. There may also be an outhouse added. The project will not involve funding beyond what has already been allocated for Eveline. It is being done under the auspices of the ski club because we are the managers of the area.

## **FUNDRAISING AND GRANTS:**

### **Homer Foundation:**

Richard reported on the progress of Homer Foundation grants. We have been awarded \$4000 this year under the Homer Foundation City Grant program. This will be sent as soon as the agreement is returned. The equipment grant still needs to be closed out. Richard will use what information we have about expenses for the blue/gold drag and close that out this month.

# **Rasmuson Grant for McNeil Storage:**

Molly has written a grant to the Rasmuson Foundation asking for \$14000 for the McNeil storage shed project. The request is for enough money to have a building that includes insulation, sheetrock, and a power meter to provide electricity. It would probably cost about \$50 per month for electricity if we do that. If the Rasmuson Foundation does not fund the whole request, we could do it cheaper by eliminating the insulation and sheetrock. Space for the building is being provided at the Kachemak Emergency Services site. This has been approved by their board.

# **Fundraising Committee:**

Molly suggested that a meeting of the Fundraising Committee is needed. We need to revisit our policy on targeted fundraisers, discuss t-shirt and pin sales, and other items. It was suggested that this be put off until fall, but Molly thinks we should have a plan before then. It was agreed to have a meeting sometime before the May board meeting. Molly will announce a time and place.

### **OLD/PENDING BUSINESS:**

# **Bylaws Update:**

Alan indicated that we need to have a meeting of the bylaws committee to update the bylaws. This needs to be done in time to have a revised version that can be voted on at the fall membership meeting.

# **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **Beluga Recreational Development:**

Kevin attended a meeting with the Kachemak Conservation Society concerning a proposed trail around Beluga Lake. This is in the non-motorized trail plan but nothing has been done about it yet. This does not directly impact the ski club and we would probably not want to take on responsibility for a new trail, but the board may want to support it.

### COMMENTS FROM THE BOD

Molly announced that she is planning on cutting down on her volunteer hours next year and will give up some responsibilities not related to work on the membership and its database.

Dave indicated that May 1 is the deadline for registration for the wooden ski workshop. The workshop needs 7 registrants to make it go and, at this point, there is only 1.

# **MEETING END:**

Meeting was adjourned about 9:30 pm. Next regular board meeting: May 5, 2010 at the Kachemak Conservation Center.

Documents submitted:

Midyear financial report Possible website modifications 2010 KNSC Marathon Summary 2010 Sea to Ski Report

Richard Burton Secretary