

KACHEMAK NORDIC SKI CLUB BOARD MINUTES

December 2, 2009

6:30pm, Kachemak Conservation Council Office

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

ABSENT: Kenton Bloom

GUESTS: None

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The agenda was amended to add the following items:

Discussion of a wooden ski making clinic under new business
Fundraising and membership
Backcountry film festival
Annual Meeting minutes

Dave moved to approve the agenda as amended. Tara seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF 11/04 AND THE ANNUAL MEETING OF 11/07:

Richard moved to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of 11/04. Dave seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Richard moved to approve minutes from the annual meeting of 11/07. Dave seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

BUDGET REPORT:

Tara gave an update on the budget. She presented a monthly income/expense report and a check register for review. A general discussion of income and expenses followed this. There were a lot of expenses, mainly due to all the trail work being completed this month. Tara indicated we are doing well with memberships and that we are about half way to our goal for individual memberships. In response to a question from Mike about when we get most of our memberships, Molly said it is usually this time of year. Tara noted we also get some members at the Wine and Cheese Tour and at Junior Nordics. Tara also reported that each area has spent most of its revenue sharing money for trail work. Dave said that there is still some work to be done at Baycrest which should be completed this week.

Alan then suggested that it might be a good idea to do a midseason budget report so that we know where we are with the budget. Tara indicated it might be good to do this quarterly and Molly suggested having a monthly budget vs. actual report. Mike asked how someone would know whether there is money available or not for a specific project. Tara replied that if it is a budgeted expense it would be ok. Jan noted that there is a cap of \$300 for unallocated expenditures. The current budget does not always split out items by area but Molly noted that the area committees should have a good idea of what money is available for a specific area. This discussion concluded with Tara offering to meet with our new members (Mike, Kevin, and Kenton) to update them on the current year's budget.

EQUIPMENT REPORT:

Dave gave a status report on equipment. He has picked up a 2 stroke machine that was in for repairs. The cost was \$350 instead of the estimated \$700. He will be getting the new 4 stroke machine Friday. It will need to be broken in before towing grooming equipment, so it will be initially used just to pack trails. Bill Hague and Bob Norberg are both working on maintenance issues. The oldest 2 stroke machine is being rebuilt. Dave indicated that this would be the machine to sell this year if we want to sell one but that we probably could not get much for it. We might want to just keep it once it is repaired. Dave also indicated we have a new pole saw.

The equipment discussion ended with a decision to have a meeting of the equipment committee at the Brann residence on Sunday, December 13 from 11 am to 12 noon followed by a grooming clinic from 1 to 3 pm. Jan questioned whether we should advertise this. Dave responded that it would be good to encourage some new blood so he thinks it is a good idea. He also indicated we should consider whether to require groomers to be club members. This is not currently necessary.

EVENTS:

High School Events:

There is a 2 day high school race scheduled for Friday and Saturday, December 4-5 at Lookout Mountain. Jan reported that there are 4 schools competing. He indicated that this is the only high school race currently scheduled for Homer this year. There will be a community race on Saturday that will be a fundraiser for the ski team. Kenton and John Miles have started grooming the course. The parking lot will be plowed tomorrow, December 3. The high school booster club has rented a tent from the chamber of commerce for the event and is hoping the ski club will split the cost. This could be a dry run for a structure to support the Besh Cup. They have rented one tent for 2 days. This led to the following motion by Tara seconded by Dave:

Motion: KNSC will allocate \$175 to split the cost of the rental tent.

In discussion, Dave suggested that we should try to get it set up as soon as possible with the idea of trying to get a good idea of what will be needed to make it work. Molly asked

where it will be located. Jan said it will be in the tunnel area if it can be cleared enough for it; otherwise it would be placed in the lower parking area. There was discussion of how to heat it. Alan said Ulmer's has a ducted propane heater for rent. Tara suggested that VBS might be willing to donate a heater since they are very supportive of high school events. The club has a generator which will be used to provide power.

After discussion, the motion was passed unanimously.

Tara then suggested that we have the high school submit an invoice. Molly suggested that the money should come from the Lookout structure line item. This was agreed to.

Besh Cup:

Jan reported on preparations for the Besh Cup. The current plans call for the sprint race to be held at McNeil on Saturday, January 23 and a distance race at Lookout on Sunday, January 24. This will make logistics more complicated since 2 different venues need to be prepared, but the CCAK committee is pretty adamant about doing it this way. There are still 2 more CCAK meetings before the races and a CCAK representative will be present this weekend at the high school races. Jan needs help communicating with McNeil groomers and needs someone to head up the grooming effort for the 1k loop at McNeil. Dave said he will check on it. In the past Mike Flora has done this and might be willing to help again. Jan also indicated that the high school would like to provide concessions for the Besh Cup as a fundraiser for the team. In the past, McNeil School has done it at McNeil and Tara suggested that the effort could be split between McNeil and the high school with the high school doing the Sunday race at Lookout. Alan pointed out that having the races at 2 different locations will require 2 work crews and wondered how many people would be needed. Jan indicated he has the work list that Stephanie used at the last races and he will be working on that. Dave indicated he would check on what is available at McNeil for fencing. Dave also said Mike Flora has a lot of experience with setup at McNeil from past races. Molly pointed out we will probably need 2 additional outhouses for McNeil. The club is not putting an outhouse at McNeil for the year and the school will probably want some available outside.

Friday Night Lights:

Dave reported that the Friday Night Lights event will take place at the DOT trailhead this year and that everything is ready to go. He also said that Anchorage has taken up the idea and that they are hosting a Friday Night Lights event this week.

Wine and Cheese Tour:

Alan reported that we do not currently have a chairman for the Wine and Cheese Tour. Dan Del Missier has done this for several years with help from Christie Gates. Dan is willing to help this year but he does not want to continue as chairman. Alan will talk to Christie to see if she is interested in chairing the event but we may need to find someone fairly quickly. There is a need to figure out the course and get an application for a liquor permit in. Dave suggested that the event should take place at Baycrest this year and that he would help with the trails and figuring out the route. Alan indicated he would contact Dan and try to set up an organizational meeting.

Sea to Ski Relay:

This event is also currently without an event chairman. Dave indicated that there is a good todo list for this event, but that preparation needs to be started in January so there is time to line up outhouses, etc. Dave also suggested that we could possibly use the new Reber trail for the bike route up West Hill instead of West Hill Road. This was followed by a brief discussion about the sanity of trying to ride a bike up the Reber Trail.

Winter Backcountry Film Festival:

This event is scheduled for Thursday, December 18 at the Homer Theater and is cosponsored by KNSC and the Alaska Quiet Rights Coalition. Molly has a poster describing the event. The films will last for more than 90 minutes with an intermission and door prizes. There will be a table with KNSC pins, etc. available for sale. Jan volunteered to help with the table. A press release will be sent to the local papers. Alan suggested getting an announcement on the community calendar on the radio.

Ski Your Age:

Jan described a new event he is hoping to organize as a fundraiser for the high school ski team. It will be held December 26 at Baycrest. The goal will be to either ski your age in kilometers or 100k – your age in kilometers between sunrise and sunset. There is a suggested donation of \$10. Jan thinks it needs to be a KNSC event. He would like KNSC board approval for the event as a fundraiser for ski team. The discussion led to the following motion by Alan seconded by Kevin:

Motion: KNSC approves holding the ski your age event on December 26 as a fundraiser for the high school ski team with the club to be reimbursed either 10% of the proceeds or \$1000 whichever is less.

The motion was approved unanimously.

COMMITTEE AND AREA REPORTS:**Baycrest Trail Improvements:**

Dave reported on the work being done on the lower Baycrest trails. Work is proceeding with improvements to Headwaters Highway and Master Blaster. Headwaters Highway was completed today with the intention of finishing Master Blaster tomorrow. Once this is completed, the Baycrest trail work will be done for the season. There has also been some work on Raven's Way to smooth out and widen some rough areas. Some work on bridges, College Avenue, and the trail from the DOT trailhead to Raven's Way will continue next spring and summer. Alan then noted that, as a future project, we need to be thinking about moving the upper part of the Homestead trail so that it goes lower down through the trees and closer to the property line. This is on private property and currently runs through the middle of the property. Alan suggested that we should try to obtain a grant for this since it will be fairly expensive but that there may be some issues involved with a grant to fund work on private property. Tara said that we would need a public easement to be able to invest public funds. Molly indicated we do not yet have a

Memorandum of Agreement with the property owner. This led to a brief discussion about MOAs and their importance. There are still some trails on private property that do not have an MOA and this is something we need to work on before we create new maps. Molly suggested that the MOA committee needs to meet more often.

McNeil/Eveline:

Dave gave a brief report on the status of trails at McNeil and Eveline. There is currently 3 to 4 feet of snow. Dave will be taking a second machine to the area tomorrow to help with grooming. It will be returned immediately afterwards.

Sign Committee:

Tara passed out a report from Jenny Edwards about sign committee work. Tara indicated that Jenny needs some additional help. Molly said that people can indicate a willingness to help on the membership form, and that Jenny could get a list to contact from this.

FUNDRAISING AND GRANTS:

Rasmuson Grant:

Molly suggested that we should consider applying for another Rasmuson Grant for capital improvements. This is the kind of project that they are willing to fund. It could possibly be used to partially fund the Roger's Loop parking project but this might tie up the money until financing could be completed. We can only have one Rasmuson Grant at a time, so it might be better to find something more discreet that could be completed immediately after allocation of the funds. Molly suggested that we should consider possible projects before the January meeting. Alan suggested we should have proposals from the area committees for possible capital projects by the January meeting. He will write a letter to the committee chairs requesting input.

Homer Foundation:

Richard reported on the status of Homer Foundation Grants. He is working on a grant request to fund purchase of a new ginzu groomer and a new blue drag. It is also necessary, since the budget is finalized, to close out the previously funded City Grant.

Fundraising Committee Meeting:

Molly passed out notes from the Fundraising Committee meeting that was held November 23. The board then discussed the resolutions from the committee meeting. Alan made a motion to approve resolution #1. Dave seconded.

Motion: The board approves the first resolution from the fundraising committee meeting: All fundraising ideas must be presented to the Board for discussion and approval before being implemented.

The motion passed unanimously. Alan pointed out that this information should be communicated to the committees. He will contact them.

Richard made a motion to approve resolution #2. Molly seconded.

Motion: The board approves the second resolution from the fundraising committee meeting: Long term goals including details of the project, benefit to the club, timeline, budget projections, and possible funding sources need to be presented to the Board for discussion and approval before being implemented.

During discussion, Alan pointed out that capital projects should come from the strategic plans. Jan suggested that this information should go to all committee chairs, not just the area committees. The motion then passed unanimously.

Mike then indicated he will follow up on discussion item #6, creating an endowment fund for KNSC.

OLD/PENDING BUSINESS:

Fundraising and Membership:

Molly gave a membership report indicating we have obtained about \$11000 in individual cash memberships with \$2000 coming from businesses and \$21000 in in-kind contributions.

Molly also brought up several ongoing initiatives related to membership and fundraising. Kathy Sarns has completed the design for KNSC t-shirts. We have 5 outhouse sponsors. T-shirt and outhouse recognition is for cash contributions only. Molly suggested that we consider a banner club to recognize in-kind contributions. Tara indicated that Kenton has talked about this in the past. Molly will do some research on this.

NEW BUSINESS:

Wooden Ski Making Class:

Dave reported on a wooden ski making workshop that will be coming to Homer the first week of August. The workshop itself will be fairly expensive and limited to about 8 participants. Dave hopes that people who attend could then take it forward to others. There will be announcements in the local media and Dave will try to get sponsors. He would like the ski club to be a co-sponsor. This discussion led to the following motion by Kevin, seconded by Jan:

Motion: KNSC should act as a co-sponsor for the wooden ski making class.

The motion passed unanimously.

MEETING END:

Meeting was adjourned about 9:45 pm.

Next meeting: January 6, 2010 at the Kachemak Conservation Council office.

Documents submitted:

Sign Committee Report
Fundraising Committee Meeting Report
KNSC Monthly Income/Expense Report
Copy of monthly check register

Richard Burton
Secretary