

## **KACHEMAK NORDIC SKI CLUB BOARD MINUTES**

**February 3, 2010**

**6:30pm, Kachemak Conservation Council Office**

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

**ABSENT:** None

**GUESTS:** Doug Schwiesow, John Miles, Robert Archibald, Mike Fastabend, Stu Schmutzler, Megan Spurkland

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

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Agenda was amended to add the following:  
Junior Nordic was added to Events

MOA committee and Website changes added under Committee and Area Reports

Membership, Benches, Rasmuson Grant, Homer Foundation Grants, and t-shirts were added to Fundraising & Grants

The agenda was approved as amended

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF 01/06/10:**

Richard moved to approve the minutes from the meeting of 01/06. Dave seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

### **COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:**

Mike Fastabend, the spruce bark beetle coordinator for the borough, attended the meeting to discuss the borough's spruce bark beetle mitigation effort. The primary goal is to reduce wildfire hazard by removing hazard trees. Mike had a map that shows the areas being considered for treatment. There are several areas of the Baycrest trail system that would be affected by this. The borough would like to work with the ski club to make sure our concerns about the trails are taken into account. He indicated they would be sensitive to the trails and could leave buffer areas. The borough has obtained \$1.6 million from stimulus funds to do this work. The primary focus is on borough land but they can expand to other land if requested.

### **BUDGET REPORT:**

Tara gave a budget update. She presented a summary report covering the period from October through February 3. We have about \$14500 in the bank account. Most of the

revenue we have received so far is from memberships. We have not yet received the revenue sharing money; Alan will call and check on this. We also will have additional income from the Besh Cup and several upcoming events.

### **EQUIPMENT REPORT:**

Dave gave a status report on the equipment. The new snowmachine had to be taken to Soldotna to fix an electrical problem. It was fixed under warranty. At this point, all equipment is working. The new ginzu groomer arrived and will be going to McNeil on Thursday.

### **EVENTS:**

Due to time constraints at this meeting, Molly moved to table discussion of the events that are on the agenda. Richard seconded. This passed unanimously. The following events will be discussed at the next meeting:

Besh Cup  
Ski For Women  
Wine and Cheese Tour  
Marathon  
Sea to Ski  
Junior Nordic

### **COMMITTEE AND AREA REPORTS:**

#### **Lookout:**

#### **Lookout community concerns:**

There was considerable discussion about improving relations between the club and local landowners. Local resident Stu Schmutzler attended the meeting and expressed some of his ideas. Jill Kramer sent an email letter to the board. The letter outlines concerns with the newly installed gong in the stadium area at the Lookout trails. These included concerns about the noise the gong makes when struck and whether there is a way to prevent it being used indiscriminately. Stu indicated he thinks it is ok to use it during scheduled events but that some way needs to be found so that it cannot be rung otherwise. Jan said he thinks it is a nice piece of art, but that if the community does not want it, we would have to remove it. The options appear to be to remove it or to find a way to shut it up except during events. Ideas included just removing the mallet, removing the gong itself but leaving the mounting, or figuring out a way to cover it. It was agreed that the Lookout committee should discuss details of this and brainstorm ideas about how to handle it before an upcoming community meeting.

In addition to the gong discussion, Stu outlined some other frustrations of the local community. He indicated that in the past there has been a lack of communication

between the ski club and local residents and that those residents don't know how to communicate with the club in a way that will get a timely response. Alan responded that the board takes these concerns seriously and that we are committed to establishing better communication. A club email account has been set up to allow for email communication. The address is on the website. Any concerns expressed there are forwarded to all board members. Alan also suggested that residents could call him or other board members if they don't want to do it through email.

There will be a community meeting in the near future to discuss the ATI grant upgrades to the area and other issues. Date and location are not known yet, but as soon as that is known, a letter will be sent to local landowners. Jan suggested that the letter should include information about how to contact the board.

### **ATI Grant:**

Tara reported on the latest update to the ATI grant. Originally this was going to fund parking improvements. However it has now been expanded to include the facility improvements that were requested earlier this year in a RTP grant request. This request was considered favorably, but it has been decided to fund it with ATI money. Therefore, the two original grants need to be merged into a single project without changing the scope of the original requests. The funding agency considers the road and parking improvements to be the most important things, so we will need to fund those first and then allocate leftover money to the other items. Since a large part of the road and parking cost would be transportation of the needed gravel, if we can get gravel locally from the Ohlson Mountain pit, there would be more money left over for the other project items. Alan and Jan are working on a letter to the local DOT and are attempting to get support from the school. Kenton also suggested that we try to get support from the local property owners on Harbinson Road since the improvements to this road would benefit them. If we get no response from DOT officials, we will approach our elected officials.

We need to have a budget prepared by March 15. Tara indicated we need to put together a worst case scenario budget that will at least fund the parking improvements. If there is money left over we will do as much of the rest as possible. It was agreed to have a planning meeting on Monday, March 8 in Kenton's office. The meeting will prioritize the projects and create a budget. Residents living on Harbinson Road will be invited.

### **MOA Committee:**

The MOA committee is attempting to get written permission from all landowners on the trail system for the trails crossing their lands. This effort has been spearheaded by Alan, Dave, and Molly and has mostly been concerned with the Baycrest trails. There are some issues at Lookout and along the marathon trail. There are not a lot of issues at the McNeil/Eveline area. A list of landowners and their current status was presented. The committee needs additional help, especially with the marathon trail and Lookout. We still need to identify all the owners along the marathon trail. Molly emphasized that we need a strategic plan for the marathon trail. Alan suggested that the board should have a common process for approaching land owners. Communication with landowners should be consistent and come from the board. Efforts have been made to move trails that the

owners would like to have relocated. The next goal is to get dedicated access. One of the relocations done this year was to move Awesome so it is closer to the property line. Robert indicated that many people liked the old Awesome and wondered if it would be possible to again groom the short section connecting upper Homestead to the new Midway. This and other issues would be looked at by the committee. A meeting of the MOA committee will be scheduled for the week of February 21. Molly will schedule it and notify board members.

## **FUNDRAISING AND GRANTS:**

### **Targeted Fundraising:**

The board discussed a letter that was submitted by Megan Spurkland concerning fundraising efforts for Homer Women's Nordic. Megan has organized several fundraising events this year with the funds designated for use by the HWN program. The intent was that any surplus would go to the club general fund. She is concerned that recent board action to limit targeted fundraisers means that this is inappropriate. This led to discussion of targeted fundraisers and recent board actions related to them. The problem is that targeted fundraisers are divisive and repeated requests for funds for special purposes can lead to donor fatigue. The intention of the board is that fundraising should generally be done for the club with the board making the decisions about allocation. Therefore the board has decided that all fundraisers should go through the board. This is a transition year and we did not get the word out to everyone that should be informed. Megan expressed general support for this policy but pointed out that these events were scheduled before the policy was implemented. An alternative for programs like HWN would be to request a budget that includes all expenses that the program expects and to organize the fundraising events as general ski club events with proceeds to go into the general fund. It was agreed that Megan should have the money she anticipated to run the HWN program this year. The discussion led to the following motion by Jan, seconded by Tara:

**Motion: The board should increase the budget for Homer Women's Nordic to \$5000 with the money raised from fundraising efforts to be directed to the general fund.**

The motion passed unanimously.

## **MEETING END:**

Due to time constraints the remaining items on the agenda were postponed. It was agreed to convene a second board meeting Tuesday, February 9 to consider the remaining agenda items..

Meeting was adjourned about 9:30 pm.

Next meeting: February 9, 2010; location to be determined.

Documents submitted:

Summary budget report  
Letter from Megan Spurkland

Richard Burton  
Secretary