

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

**November 4, 2009**

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

**PRESENT:** Richard Burton, Alan Parks, Tara Schmidt, Allan Phelps, Dave Brann, Molly Brann, Lisa Wood, Jan Spurkland, Steve Rykaczewski.

**ABSENT:** None

**GUESTS:** Milli Martin, John Miles

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

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

The agenda was amended to add the Film Festival, Friday Night Lights, and Women's Ski Clinics to the discussion of events.

Alan suggested that since the agenda for this meeting was very full, we prioritize Milli's report, budget discussion, and the annual meeting with a goal of finishing in 2.5 hours.

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

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

Milli Martin gave a report on the effort to have the borough reclassify 10 acres of the Lookout Mountain trails from residential to recreational. This effort required a lot of work that spanned several years. Milli wanted to get it resolved before she retired from the borough assembly this fall. She gave a brief history of the effort and some of the politics involved. It turned out that this reclassification had to go through the planning commission and a public hearing prior to being considered at the October borough meeting. With considerable help from Allan Phelps in providing necessary information, a presentation by Milli before the planning commission, and support from the mayor this effort was successful and a resolution supporting the reclassification was passed at the October borough meeting. Milli expressed thanks to all who had written letters and testified at the meeting. She indicated that the support had been crucial to the success of the effort. She also pointed out that there had been a great deal of miscommunication in the process and that, in the future, both sides in contract negotiations need to make sure they have a full understanding of the issues.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF 10/07 AND 10/28:**

Dave moved to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of 10/07. Richard seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Richard moved to approve minutes from the special budget meeting of 10/28. Dave seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

## **BUDGET REPORT:**

### **2010 Budget:**

Tara presented an updated budget that took into account the discussion from the special 10/28 budget meeting. She also presented an updated profit/loss statement. This was followed by a detailed discussion of the budget as well as several amendments.

Allan asked why the \$10000 “Name the Crossing” item was not designated to Lookout since the culvert is specific to that area. Tara responded that revenue from “Name the Crossing” had been placed in expenses for capital improvements. There followed a discussion about targeted fundraising efforts. Alan suggested that we should try to move in the direction that fundraising efforts not be directed to specific areas. He thinks this encourages internal competition and that it would be better to have the board be responsible for specific allocations. Molly responded that it is sometimes easier to market a fundraiser if it is targeted. She thinks that a targeted fundraiser can bring additional contributions that would not otherwise be given from people interested in a specific project. Nothing was decided about this at the meeting, but further discussion will follow at the fundraising committee meeting discussed later and at further board meetings.

Alan announced that we have been awarded a State Revenue Sharing grant again this year. The amount will be about \$8300. The budget assumed \$6000 for this so it needs to be increased. This year the allocation was not split between the Diamond Ridge and McNeil areas, so the money can be spent on trail maintenance and improvements at any of our areas. We should get the grant after the next borough meeting.

John asked if there was any money left over from the Lookout allocations for additional work on the cat house. Tara responded that all the money previously allocated to Lookout by the board has been spent.

Alan asked if there were any additional changes to budget line items. Molly suggested that C2Ski expenses should go from \$700 to \$300 since insurance cost was moved and there are very few actual expenses for this race. Jan said that pins expense should go from \$1000 to \$500.

### **Besh Cup Budget:**

John reported that a Besh Cup committee consisting of John, Kenton, and Stephanie met to come up with a budget for the Besh Cup. Stephanie does not want to be solely responsible for Besh Cup preparation this year, so John reports it will be done by the committee with Kenton’s office as headquarters. They will also get support from the high school booster club. There is a meeting planned for November 10 at the high school. Dave asked if they were planning to have both race days at Lookout. John indicated they were.

John indicated that the money allocated in the budget for the Besh Cup should be enough for everything except a weatherport structure. The committee feels that some kind of structure will be necessary to hold the Besh Cup at Lookout. There was some discussion about what kind of structure and whether to rent or buy one. The recently submitted RTP grant requests funding for a weatherport type structure. However this would not come through in time for the Besh Cup this winter. Tara suggested that if we buy a weatherport before the grant comes through it might affect whether the grant would cover the costs. Kenton would like to investigate the possibility of renting this year with an option to buy if the RTP grant is successful. Another possibility would be to see if we could rent a tent from the Chamber of Commerce. Dave indicated he would investigate this and try to get a cost estimate. Dave also suggested we should try to get a firm price on a weatherport and find out if they have a rent to own program. He said he thinks \$8500 is a very good price, but that there should be more discussion if it will be more.

Alan said that the board should send a message to the committee that we support obtaining an adequate shelter for the Besh Cup. Hopefully a permanent solution will be funded by the grant proposal, but we should be prepared to find funds elsewhere in the budget to get something until this comes through. Molly then made the following motion, seconded by Tara:

**Motion: KNSC should add \$3000 to the Lookout Trail Construction budget.**

Discussion concerned how to account for this in the budget. Several members felt it should be placed under equipment since it is designed to provide a shelter. Alan said he would prefer to have an area wide designation instead of just targeting Lookout. A portable shelter could potentially be moved to accommodate events at all areas. This discussion led to an amendment to restate the motion as follows:

**Motion: KNSC should add \$3000 to the equipment budget for the purpose of obtaining a shelter.**

Molly had no objection to the rewording and the motion was passed unanimously.

**Budget Amendments:**

Alan requested an amendment to the budget to pay for grass seeding that was done on the new upper Baycrest trails. Alan has already spent \$700 for the seed and done the seeding so it could be finished this fall before the trails freeze. This led to the following motion by Alan, seconded by Molly:

**Motion: Add \$1000 to budget expenses for Baycrest trail construction to pay for seeding of the trails.**

During discussion, Allan asked if all money already allocated for Baycrest trail construction has been spent. Alan replied that the \$5000 allocated to upper Baycrest has been spent. The money allocated to lower Baycrest has been committed and is scheduled to start soon. The motion passed unanimously.

Allan suggested that Alder Seaman did a good job on the RTP grant and that he feels that we should budget for a grant writer. He made the following motion, seconded by Dave:

**Motion: KNSC should add \$2000 to the budget to fund hiring for someone to do grant research and development.**

During discussion, Tara indicated that we still have about \$1200 left from money that was previously allocated for a grant writer. This led Allan to suggest reducing the allocation in this motion to \$1000. There was also some discussion about whether grant research is something we really should pay someone to do. Alan suggested that the board should be willing to take on some of this work and that hiring should be focused on specific projects. He suggested an amendment to restrict hiring to just grant development. Allan agreed to this amendment, so the final motion was stated as follows:

**Motion: KNSC should add \$1000 to the budget to fund hiring a person for grant development.**

The motion passed unanimously.

Molly then suggested adding \$1000 to the trail construction budget for Baycrest and \$1000 for McNeil/Eveline as a reserve so money would be available in the budget for unexpected expenses. She made the following motion, seconded by Dave:

**Motion: Add \$1000 to Baycrest trail construction and \$1000 to McNeil/Eveline trail construction.**

Discussion concerned whether this really needed to be budgeted at this time. Allan and Jan both suggested it should wait until spring and that we could add it at that time if necessary and if we have the money. Dave indicated he would like to see it designated in the budget now so it would be available. It could be changed later in an emergency. In response to a question from John about additional funds for Lookout, Molly replied that we should add additional money for Lookout later if the Lookout grant is not successful. After discussion, this motion failed on a 5-4 vote.

Tara then suggested that we just add \$2000 to the trail construction budget without designating where it should be spent. She made the following motion seconded by Lisa:

**Motion: Add \$2000 to the budget for trail construction.**

In discussion, Steve suggested we need to make sure we have some funds left in reserve. Molly indicated we still have a \$3200 surplus in the budget and about \$14000 left in reserve funds. She also thinks it would look better to grant writing agencies to not have a large net income in the budget. There was still some concern expressed about allocating more money for specific purposes. After the discussion, the motion passed on a 7-2 vote.

**EQUIPMENT REPORT:**

Dave gave a brief status report on equipment. There has not yet been a meeting of the equipment committee but that will be coming. We have put our name on a list for a new Skandic snowmachine and a ginzu groomer. We are at the bottom of the list for the ginzu groomer because we did not receive a Rasmuson Tier 1 equipment grant and had not yet approved this year's budget, so the ginzu groomer would probably not be delivered

before January. Bill Hague is still trying to get a good price on an equipment lift so it has not been ordered yet.

John gave an update on the 4-wheeler. We should have parts for repair by Wednesday. There is water in our fuel tank and we may have to replace the fuel in the tank.

## **EVENTS:**

### **Annual Meeting:**

Alan gave a report on the annual meeting. It is scheduled for Saturday, November 7 at 6:00pm at Beluga Lake Lodge. The business meeting will consist of a report to the membership and the election of 3 new board members. At this point we have two candidates for the board: Mike Byerly and Kenton Bloom. Richard will print up a ballot before the meeting. Jan indicated that Megan may want to talk about the Homer Women's Nordic group and try to recruit some new members. The business meeting will be followed by games for kids and then the band "A Work in Progress" will play starting at 8:00pm. There will be food and drinks available. The food will consist of fish chowder as well as side dishes provided by board members. The lodge will provide a bartender and beer and wine will be served. The bartender will charge for drinks and, once expenses are covered, proceeds will go to the club. There will also be a silent auction with auction items being donated by some board members as well as Ulmer's and Homer Saw. Molly asked that an in-kind contribution form be filled out for any donated items.

### **Ski Swap:**

The ski swap is scheduled for November 11 at the High School. It is organized by Community Schools. Dave and Molly will have a KNSC information booth at the event. Jan indicated that the high school ski team will be waxing skis as a fundraiser.

### **High School Events and Contracts:**

Jan gave a report on the high school contracts and ski team events planned for this year. There are about 25 skiers this year which is a slight reduction over last year. He is suggesting we approve the same contracts as last year with the purpose being to create a paper trail. There will be a meeting with the parents next Tuesday to get their approval. Alan made the following motion about contracts seconded by Dave:

### **Motion: The KNSC board approves the High School contracts.**

The motion passed unanimously.

Jan then briefly discussed the race schedule for this year. There are races scheduled for December 4-5 in Homer. At present, these are the only races scheduled for Homer this year, but there will likely be another weekend in February.

Jan reported that Shelly Laukitis has volunteered to be the high school coordinator for the ski club. This will relieve the board of the organizational responsibility while still providing representation from KNSC.

Jan also indicated that he is thinking of starting a men's ski group that would be organized under the auspices of the club and would be similar to the Home Women's Nordic group organized by Megan.

**Film Festival:**

Molly reported on the ski movie night this year. It is scheduled for December 17 at the Homer Theater. 7 films have been chosen and we will share profits with the Alaska Quiet Rights Coalition.

**Friday Night Lights:**

The Friday Night Lights event is scheduled for Friday and Saturday nights, January 1-2. Molly indicated that she would like to use the event this year as a targeted fundraiser for the Roger's Loop trailhead purchase. She made the following motion, seconded by Dave:

**Motion:**

**KNSC should market the Friday Night Lights event as a fundraiser for the purchase of land at Roger's Loop with any amount over \$800 to go into this fund.**

There was considerable discussion about this motion. Molly pointed out that we have a line item in the budget for Roger's Loop land purchase and she feels it would help to have money in the account when we apply for grants to support the purchase. It would also help get the word out about the effort. She also thinks it would encourage people to give more than the \$10 minimum donation if they knew it could help fund this project. This brought up further discussion of targeted versus general fundraisers. While it was agreed that sometimes a targeted fundraiser could have a large return, the concern was expressed by several members that we should be moving away from specific fundraisers and this would not help with that goal. Alan expressed full support for the Roger's Loop project but indicated he thinks it would be better to have a comprehensive plan and a well written narrative for the project in place first. He thinks that this would be more important for grant applications than a small amount of money in the fund. Tara and Jan suggested that this particular fundraiser would not raise very much money and that it is probably not worth the dissent that it would be likely to cause. After discussion, the motion failed on a 7-2 vote.

**Women's Ski and Waxing Clinics:**

Molly asked if anyone had information about the status of these clinics for this year. She would like information before the November 15 deadline for the Alaska Nordic Skier or she would like to remove it from the calendar. Jan said that he would bring it to Megan's attention and get an answer.

**COMMITTEE AND AREA REPORTS:**

**Lookout:**

John reported on current work being done at Lookout. There is still considerable work being done to get the timing shed finished. Larry Martin and Kenton have donated windows for the building. The interior design is finished. There is an article in the Homer Tribune this week about the effort.

**Baycrest:**

Dave reported that work has not yet started on the lower trails. The work is waiting for good weather conditions for equipment on the trails and for contractor help. A work party is scheduled for Friday, November 6. Alan reported that the rerouting of some of the upper trails has been completed and that the new trails have been seeded. The new trails are all 20 feet wide and should provide good skiing.

**McNeil/Eveline:**

Dave reported that the legal trail easement between McNeil and Eveline has been cleared and should provide a much better connector trail between the two areas. Work is starting on the McNeil trail loops and the school ground trails. It should be completed in 2-3 weeks. There is a new sign up for Eveline.

**General/Areawide:**

Molly has ordered outhouses from Moore and Moore. We will pay for 2 outhouses at Lookout and they are donating one for the DOT trailhead. It is not yet decided what to do at McNeil. Fritz Creek has donated 1000 gallons of fuel. Alan said that we need to move the fuel tank that is located at David Stutzer's. Dave agreed to work on that. He offered to be the point person for fuel and for plowing at all areas.

**FUNDRAISING AND GRANTS:**

**RTP Grant:**

Allan reported that the RTP grant proposal authored by Alder Seaman has been sent out. He indicated that there was money in the proposal to fund grant reporting and said he thinks Alder is a good person to continue our efforts.

**KPB Revenue Sharing grant:**

Alan reported on the Revenue Sharing grant. It was funded again this year. We will get about \$8300 which can be used for any of our areas.

**Rasmuson Grant:**

Molly gave a brief status report on the Rasmuson grant efforts. Our application for a tier 1 grant to fund equipment purchase was denied. However, Molly talked with them and they indicated that we are still eligible for a grant; they don't really want to fund equipment purchases and would rather see a request for a capital improvement project.

**T-Shirt Fundraiser:**

Molly reported on the effort to design and sell a club t-shirt. A draft look for the design has been worked up but the shirt still needs detail design work.

**Business Sponsors:**

Molly reported that she is working on increasing our business sponsorship programs. Lodging will be the first target. She submitted a letter expressing appreciation of our sponsors and requesting support for this year. She has 20 copies for Alan to sign. Richard is going to create a page on the website to recognize our sponsors.

**In-kind Contributions and Cash Donations:**

Molly submitted several forms relating to contributions. There is a Business Sponsor/Membership form and a form for reporting in-kind contributions. The in-kind contribution form requests a brief description of the contribution and an estimate of its value. She would like approval of the concept. She made the following motion, seconded by Dave:

**Motion: The KNESC board approves the submitted form for in-kind contributions.**

There was brief discussion of how much additional burden this would put on sponsors. Allan expressed concern that it might discourage contributions. Molly emphasized that this was not meant to be a burden and that we could help fill some of them in. It is intended to give better accounting of our support. The motion passed unanimously.

Molly also suggested that someone on the board needs to write thank you letters from the board when a committee chair needs one. It was agreed that these requests would go to Alan and Richard would help.

**Fundraising Committee Meeting:**

Molly would like to have a meeting of the fundraising committee to brainstorm new ideas. After discussion, it was decided to hold this meeting Monday, November 23 at noon at the Kachemak Conservation Council office.

**MEETING END:**

This is the last meeting for Steve, Allan, and Lisa. They were all thanked for their many contributions and service to the club. Steve pointed out that, during his tenure, the budget had gone from about \$7500 to over \$100000 which is some indication of how much has been done in recent years.

Meeting was adjourned about 9:45 pm.

Next meeting: December 3, 2009 at the Kachemak Conservation Council office.

Documents submitted:

Draft 2009-2010 budget  
Updated profit/loss detail  
Business Sponsor/Membership form  
Letter to business sponsors  
In-kind Contribution form

Richard Burton  
Secretary