

Minutes Missoula Nordic Ski Club

June 15, 2009

Topic: Bylaws and general purpose of meeting

Discussion

Steve German reported that there were clear bylaws to run the club. Further stated that contrary to information generally believed, Vice President did not automatically become the president. Election required formal vote at general membership meeting. Club must have annual meeting as part of maintaining non profit status.

Discussion was had about previous work that had been done by club members, but that it seemed much of the information and experience in performing tasks had been lost. Many members had grown weary of the time and responsibility of managing the club activities and stopped participating. What made it especially difficult was that no one had been available to learn the information and now there seemed to be a disconnection between the past and present. Although it was actually stated later in the meeting, Steve Gaskill summed up a key point in the process we were beginning. In order for the club to function, members would need to volunteer to manage portions of the club business (as large a portion as they could comfortably manage), they'd need to do it for a while, and the club would need to develop a method for transferring the information and experience to a new person when anyone stopped or lessened their involvement.

Decisions and Action plans

Move ahead with meetings.

Kiefer is still formally club president.

Board members will attempt to locate bylaws.

All members would be encouraged to participate in the process, even if it meant only sharing past experience.

Anyone with expertise in any of the areas discussed in club meetings or identified by members is encouraged to share it with the club.

Will have annual membership meeting in the fall, as we traditionally have had.

Topic :Finances and grants

Discussion

Michelle Voight, treasurer, provided financial statement for the club. Including information regarding expenses, membership fees and grants. The statement is available at [INSERT LINK TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT](#). Craig Krueger, vice president, described conversations had with Mike Myers, former president, and Kiefer Hahn, president, regarding the writing of previous grants. Mike reported the grant was the highest ranked grant submitted and would likely be a valuable tool for future grants. He no longer had a copy and suggested Kiefer might have one. Kiefer reported he did not have a copy. Michelle reported that Steve Gilbert from Fish Wildlife and Parks was the person who received and rated the grants and would have a copy. The grant was available on a yearly basis. Steve Gaskill offered to head up grant writing efforts for the club. There was some discussion regarding how the money from grants can be spent. Is it limited to particular equipment or can it be spent on grooming.

Decisions and Action plans

Steve Gaskill's offer to take charge of grant writing was accepted.

Michelle will examine details of grant expenditure requirements and report.

Steve Gaskill will contact Steve Gilbert to get a copy of the grant. Steve will write grant for this year.

Steve is interested in hearing of ideas for club activities that would require a grant. He can then attempt to find and write a grant to meet the need.

Topic: Equipment

Discussion

Initial conversation regarding current state of equipment. Rattlesnake groomer currently remains at Charlie Wellenstein home in the Rattlesnake. It is in good condition and can remain there. However it is in the open, only covered by a tarp. It should be taken in for annual maintenance.

John Weyhrich reported that the machines at Lubrecht could be stored there. With the new Ginzu, John feels they are “all set” at Lubrecht. The equipment has been “summarized” but also should be brought in for annual maintenance.

Steve German reported that the Patted machine was in good shape and is stored in the shed at Pattee. It should also be brought in for maintenance.

Discussion had regarding purchasing a new four stroke machine. Motivation from desire to provide safe environmentally friendly tool for groomers and public. Also Forest Service agreement requires formulation of plan to acquire four stroke machine. John reported his information was that it would cost around \$10,000.

Discussion of current condition of trailer and possible purchase of new trailer. It was believed that the old trailer had been stored at the Forest Service and may have been moved and repaired by Jim Buckley.

Decisions and Action plans

Members agreed to pursue purchase of four stroke snowmobile.

John would investigate availability and cost of four stroke snowmobile.

Decision on new trailer to be determined after information regarding old trailer could be determined.

Craig would call Ray Johnson and Jim Buckley to ascertain location and condition of old trailer.

Topic : Forest Service contract

Discussion

Last year, in order to continue grooming Pattee Canyon and the Rattlesnake, the Forest Service required the club to sign a new agreement that changed our relationship and responsibilities. We were no longer covered through the Forest Service insurance and, particularly in the Rattlesnake; we were required to perform additional tasks that many club members felt were excessive. It was hoped that a new, more favorable agreement could be negotiated this year. Joe Kipphut had volunteered to organize and produce the 2008 report that was part of the Forest Service agreement. He still needed some information from groomers and others to complete that report.

At the club members' request, Joe Kipphut agreed to represent the club in this year's negotiation.

Decisions and Action plans

Joe's offer was accepted. Craig would contact Kiefer to have him sign a letter formally naming Joe as our representative.

Topic : Grooming

Discussion

As part of a continuing conversation regarding liability for the club and its officers the need for workers compensation insurance for groomers was discussed. Grooming and moving grooming equipment poses a potential risk for injury. The club has no form of liability insurance. After the last meeting in December, Craig investigated workers compensation insurance and learned it was based upon a percentage of wages paid. The cost did not seem to be prohibitive. However, it brought to light a greater

issue. Previously groomers had been paid a “stipend” and had not been treated as wage and hour employees. Purchasing workers compensation insurance could potentially put an end to any pretense that groomers were not wage and hour employees.

Last year the trails at Pattee were not mowed prior to the season. In previous years Missoula Parks and Rec mowed them. A conflict between the Forest Service and MPR prevented it from happening.

Mowing the trails could potentially allow earlier and better quality grooming earlier in the year and with less snow.

Decisions and Action plans

Craig would investigate workers compensation insurance through contact with other non profit ski clubs, other non profit organizations, and labor law specialists the possible options.

Steve Gaskill will contact parks department to determine status of mowing

Topic : Next meeting

Discussion

The group agreed continued meetings would be needed to in order to get club business in order. All agreed it was important to continue to expand involvement of other members. Michelle would produce a postcard to send to all past members and an attempt would be made to assimilate and test email addresses that the club had accumulated.

Decisions and Action plans

Meet the third Monday of each month through the summer and fall.

Michelle will send out postcard to general membership soliciting involvement in meetings and process.