

Minutes Missoula Nordic Ski Club

July 20, 2009

Topic :Grooming

Discussion

Craig reported that after discussing the wage and hour issue with the controller of a local non-profit, who also had experience as a board member of a local athletic club, the move to treating groomers as wage and hour employees is likely unavoidable. Craig also reported exchanging phone calls with the president of the Bitterroot Ski Club to get input. Concern for coverage of volunteers also expressed. If they are volunteering they will not be covered by workers comp.

Decisions and Action plans

Craig will contact the Bitterroot Club president again.

Craig will contact organizations that utilize stipends to understand if they can be used.

Craig will investigate general liability insurance separate from workers compensation insurance.

Michelle will investigate the cost of hiring a private accountant to provide payroll services.

Topic: Equipment

Discussion

Craig relayed that he had spoken to Ray Johnson who was unsure of location of club's trailer. He thought Jim Buckley may have moved and repaired it. Ray advised that in his opinion a lighter trailer would make grooming much easier. He also recommended investigating the cost of a covered trailer that might discourage vandalism should the club need to store the trailer at a less secure location. He thought that it would be of value to repair the old trailer as well. Jim Buckley informed Craig that he had not moved the trailer. He offered to repair the trailer if the club could transport it to his shop. He also advised purchasing a light weight trailer.

John Weyrich reported he had made contact with Lynn Carey of the Seeley Nordic Ski Club, who had recently purchased a new machine, and a local dealer. His estimate of \$10,000 for a new four stroke "utility" snowmobile was accurate. There were two main options, similar in cost and function. John also reported, due to lack of availability and resulting unpredictability of delivery, that we should move quickly to assure delivery before winter.

There was a short discussion regarding the possibility of purchasing a larger machine, such as a small piston bully or the like. Groomers and members noted the quicker and higher quality grooming such a machine could provide. Also, there were thoughts, due to current economic conditions, that such machines could be purchased at favorable prices. There was also consideration given to the greater maintenance skill and cost such machines required.

The group discussed how the new machine was to be used. Should it be used at the Rattlesnake or Pattee? The Rattlesnake is the most sensitive area, with the most potential for concern with snowmobile use. However, the Club only groomed the Rattlesnake 6 times last year. Pattee has been groomed with a regular snowmobile for years. However, it was groomed much more frequently. It was noted with such limited grooming at the Rattlesnake, and a new light weight trailer it would be possible to use the four stroke at both locations.

Decisions and Action plans

Joe thought he might have a few more leads on the lost trailer, he will investigate.

Craig would find the current costs for light weight trailers, both covered and uncovered. These costs would be reported at the next meeting.

John was given the authority to purchase a new machine. He was given the authority to pay a deposit to begin the process. John was also approved to negotiate a trade in on one of the old machines.

Purchase of a Piston Bully was delayed until the club had more money and expertise.(perhaps a grant idea for Steve)

Topic : Forest Service contract

Discussion

Joe provided the report required by the Forest Service agreement.

The group went through the current agreement and made recommendation to Joe regarding additions and omissions they felt were appropriate.

Craig reported he had written and emailed a short letter designating Joe as our representative to Kiefer.

Decisions and Action plans

Joe will secure the letter from Kiefer and arrange a meeting with the Forest Service. Charlie volunteered to participate with negotiations. Craig offered his help as well.

Topic : Communication with members

Discussion

We have a list of 78 e-mail addresses of current and former members none of which “bounced” when we sent out the notice of tonight’s meeting. However, just because an e-mail address did not “bounce” does not mean that it is valid. Michelle and/or Craig volunteered to write a short “newsletter” in conjunction with next month’s meeting. The next postcard, will be mailed to physical addresses and ask for the e-mail address of recipients. We could either use a service like Yahoo or Google to set up a group for discussion of club issues, or a forum can be set up on the website.

Website: Alden can transition the web site to a format similar to the <http://rockymountaineers.com> website which he also manages. A very basic prototype should be posted soon. A subcommittee that included Dennis Feeney, Alden, and ??? was formed to give Alden feedback concerning the content and layout of the revised web site. Unfortunately, Alden will be out of town for the August meeting.

Three club members joined the group at the request of others who had been attending or in response to the email. They expressed a desire to involve themselves in general club activities including volunteering to groom, contacting members to encourage participation, and participating in junior skier development.

Decisions and Action plans

Michelle will mail postcards.

Alden will move ahead with development of website

Topic : Events

Discussion

Club members advocated additional Races and events. Dennis Feeney The Barneloppet represents a good opportunity to collaborate with the Sons of Norway. Better youth program.

Decisions and Action plans

Craig will develop a calendar to define the dates of club events early so members and other clubs and organizations can plan to participate.

Topic : Next meeting

Discussion

Some discussion of delaying meeting due to vacations.

Decisions and Action plans

We will continue to meet the third Monday of each month through the summer and fall.

Next meeting will be:

August 17, 2009, 6pm, at Dan Fox Homes for Youth, Youth Homes, Inc., 515 S. Reserve, corner of Third and Reserve.