

THE MOUNTAINEERS
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
October 6, 2005

Board Members Present:

Ron Eng, President;
Ken Madden, President Elect;
Donna Osseward, VP of Recreational Properties;
Don Heck, Treasurer;
John Wick, Secretary

Trustees:

Rick Anderson;
Steve Cox;
Brad Gibson,
Dale Flynn;
Jim French;
Ken Hahn;

Branch Trustees:

Rob Simonsen- Everett;
Diane Littau - Kitsap;
Henry Romer - Olympia;
Bill Deters - Seattle;
Mary Lunch – Snoqualmie Foothills;
Jim Burke - Tacoma;

Absent:

Craig Rowley, VP of Publishing;
William Borden;
Jamie Gordon;
Patti Polinski;
Steve Glenn - Bellingham;

Others Present:

Steve Costie, Executive Director;
Brian Horstman, Controller;
Helen Cherullo, Publisher;
Paul Robisch, Foundation;
Marty Jordan
Dyke Kinder
Peg Lovellford
Fran Troje;

Frank Sincock;
Steve Sears;

I. Call to Order

President Ron Eng called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM in the Pinnacle Room of the Mountaineers, 300 Third Avenue in Seattle WA.

President Ron Eng asked the audience members to introduce themselves.

II. Approve Agenda

The following changes were made to the agenda:

1. Jim Burke requested that the Sharkfin Accident Investigation be added as the first item of unfinished business.
2. Jim Burke asked that under new business the Hark Program update be moved to item A.
3. It was requested that the Marketing Committee Charter be added as New Business, item C.

The items on the original agenda were then re-ordered.

The Agenda was approved on a voice vote.

III. Approval of the minutes

The September minutes were not available in time to be reviewed. Approval was moved to next month.

IV. Consent Agenda

The amended Consent Agenda consisted of:

Risk Management Committee

Duncan Cox, Chair
Steve Costie
Glenn Eades
Don Schaechtel
Ken Small

Marketing Committee

Bill Evans, Chair
Rich Barringer
Mary Lynch
Martha Scoville
Steve Sears
Fran Troje
Mona West

The amended Consent Agenda was approved on a voice vote

V. Officers Report

President Ron Eng reported:

1. The Mountaineers Annual Meeting was held September 14th. It was hosted by the Snoqualmie Foothills Branch and Eng thanked Mary Lynch and Fran Troje for all their work.
2. The next Annual Meeting will be September 13th in Seattle.
3. Jim Whittaker was at the Clubhouse September 15th for a fund raiser and Whittaker has offered to help the club if needed.
4. The President's work party was September 24th. They had continued the work on the Iron Goat Trail. A total of 24 members participated and a grand time was had by all.

President Elect Ken Madden reported:

1. Madden referred to his written report.
2. On September 22nd the Managing Committee met and among other topics reviewed a change in the reimbursement rate for drivers on Mountaineer trips, and accident investigation was discussed.
3. The new website had logged over 5000 different Mountaineer users. The database is in use and growing. He acknowledged Alison Huffman's and the staff's hard work in making it successful.

Executive Director Steve Costie reported:

1. A caretaker, Jeff Wright, has been hired for the Kitsap property.
2. The cabin has 25% of the minor interior work left to do. Approximately \$59K of the \$65K budgeted has been spent.
3. The auto deduct feature that will allow members to have automatic deductions made monthly is expected to come on line approximately January 1st.
4. The drop rate for FY 2005 was 4.8%.

V.P. Publishing Craig Rowley was absent. Helen Cherullo reported:

1. September fell short of the financial goals, and at year end Books expects to be short of the original goals. They will analyze the data and make the necessary corrections.
2. Mission publishing will be one of new focuses.
3. Books will be meeting in November with their Governance Board.
4. In response to a question from Jim French Cherullo as a general assessment noted that over last 4 years Books has been in a holding pattern, performing fairly close to plan. They now need to improve.
5. A flyer is in BoT member's folder about 3 author events. These are in collaboration with UW at Kane Hall and show mission publishing in action.

V.P of Recreation Properties Donna Osseward reported:

1. Properties have no September meeting so there is nothing to report.
2. All are busy getting lodges ready for winter.

Secretary John Wick reported:

The annual election is underway. Wick will be absent during the ballot counting and BoT Member Steve Cox has graciously agreed to attend to those duties.

Treasurer Don Heck reported:

Nothing to add to the written report.

VI. Unfinished Business

A. Sharkfin Accident Investigation

It was moved (Burke) and seconded (Madden) that the Board go into executive session to discuss the Sharkfin Accident Investigation.

The motion passed.

The investigation of the accident on Sharkfin was discussed.

The policy and process the Club has for investigating accidents were noted.

At 8:04 PM the Board returned to regular session.

It was moved (Burke) and seconded (Cox) that Dan Lauren be appointed Chair of the Sharkfin Accident Investigation Committee.

The motion passed on a voice vote.

VII. New Business

B. Hark Program Update

Jim Burke noted the loss of an outstanding volunteer, Joe Bachus, who basically single handedly, created and ran the Hark Program.

Burke introduced Peg Lovellford who would be carrying the Hark Program forward.

Lovellford reported on the interest in the Tacoma Branch in continuing Jo's work in the Hark program.

In fact, 5 individuals had committed to see the program continues. These folks had met last Monday and planned to begin seeking a partnership with Pierce county agencies that have kids that could benefit.

Paul Robisch of the Foundation noted that the Foundation had received funds identified as being intended to support the Hark Program in Jo's memory.

In answer to a question from Mary Lynch, Lovellford responded that the Hark Program is an official Mountaineer program.

It was moved (Flynn) and seconded (Burke) that the BoT endorse the Hark Program and urge the Foundation to support that program with a written agreement and dedicated donations.

Discussion about the Hark Program, the process for approving funding, written agreements, and where the Hark Program would fit in the budget took place.

The question was called (Burke).

The calling of the question passed 14 in favor.

The motion passed, 13 in favor, 0 opposed.

C. No Surprises Ruling Update

Dale Flynn introduced Dyke Kinder the Chair of the Wildlife Committee of the Conservation Committee. Kinder reviewed the history of the No Surprises Ruling, a series of statutes promoted as enabling land owners to commit to plans once and then not be required to amend those plans if future discoveries or determinations might affect their lands. The Mountaineers are plaintiffs in the past and current lawsuits attempting to modify these statutes. Kinder elaborated on the large amount of lands that could be affected. He explained that currently landowners can do a minimal environmental impact statement and that would be the reference, no matter what else is discovered. This leads to degradation and fragmentation of critical habitats. The lawsuits have been successful in shifting policy in the correct direction, but it is not far enough. Kinder concluded with an outline of future planned actions and needed steps.

C. Marketing Committee Charter

It was noted that the Marketing Committee Charter had a typo but was otherwise acceptable. It was agreed to change the wording 'chairperson' to 'membership'.

This passed on a voice vote based on the typo being corrected.

D. General Discussion on Policies and Bylaws

Bill Deters gave a brief explanation of his Committee's work in updating Policies and Bylaws. He noted that a large number of the Policies and Bylaws could use updating. It is not something that can be done lightly or quickly.

E. BP 416 Transportation Update

Bill Deters noted that with gas prices going up the Mountaineers policy on reimbursing drivers was not financially current. Deters reported two proposals had been received to rectify this, one from Steve Sears to raise the amount per mile paid to drivers, and one from Steve Cox changing the reimbursement to a distribution tied to the IRS allowance. Both proposals were discussed and their merits noted. It was decided to utilize the proposal by Sears as it had already been reviewed and approved by the Managing Committee.

The Sears proposal to increase the reimbursement to 12 cents per mile was approved.

F. Managing Committee Charter

Bill Deters introduced this as a "housekeeping" item. The Managing Committee Charter had no record of being approved by the BoT, a necessary technicality.

The Managing Committee Charter was approved.

G. Hikes With Dogs Policy

Bill Deters introduced an amended policy that had been worked by the Managing Committee that would allow dogs on specific hikes under specific conditions. This generated abundant comment and opinion, with several BoT members working to reword the document from the floor.

It became apparent that a more practical solution was to remand this item to the Managing Committee with the hope that an actionable document be returned at a future date.

VIII. Committee Reports

A. New Facilities Construction Committee (NFCC)

It was reported that next month should conclude the negotiations. As soon as the negotiations are done a full report including the offer will be prepared for the BoT to review.

It was requested that a monthly written report be included in the BoT packet.

Paul Robisch said there was a perception that the current building has been sold and asked if that was true. It was answered that no sales have been pursued and no offers have been accepted.

B. BoT Action on Organizational Ad Hoc Committee

John Wick reported that he would forward copies of the report and the help needed to the individual committees and develop a schedule.

C. Alternative Funding Committee

Brad Gibson reported:

A draft of the policy has been forwarded to the Policies and Bylaws Committee for review.

So far there is about \$30K in donations being held by the Foundation.

The 'Donate' button is up and running on the Mountaineers website.

As noted earlier the auto deduct feature is due at the first of the year.

Next year they plan to have an organized planned giving program for review and implementation.

VIII. Program Reports

A. Division Reports

Conservation Division – Nancy Neyenhouse

No report as Neyenhouse was absent.

Dale Flynn noted that they are looking for a person to fill the ½ time position.

Recreation Resources Division – Christine Wolf

No report

B. Branch Reports

Bellingham – Steve Glenn

No report.

Everett – Rob Simonsen

No report.

Kitsap – Diane Littau

Littau distributed a hand out funded by the Foundation for educational outreach. The hand out promoted seeing the salmon spawning at the Kitsap property.

Olympia – Henry Romer

1. Have had their election and new officers are taking their places.
2. Their annual banquet will be November 5th. Holly Beck will be their (fabulous) guest speaker.

Seattle – Bill Deters

1. Elections for their officers will be this month. At the next BoT meeting the Seattle trustee will be Steve Sears.
2. This is Bill's last month as the Seattle Trustee and he thanked all for the time serving.

Snoqualmie Foothills – Mary Lynch

No report.

Tacoma – Jim Burke

1. Their annual banquet on the 15th with Eric Simonsen as their guest speaker.
2. This is Jim's last meeting as the Tacoma Trustee and he noted it has been a pleasure serving.

C. Foundation Report –Paul Robisch

1. Robisch referred to the written report.
2. Ken Madden asked what the Foundation decided on library funding. Robisch reported the Foundation Board felt the Mountaineers BoT was not acting on finding long term funding for the library. It was 2 years into a 3 year time frame where the Foundation agreed to support the library while the BoT developed a plan. Hence the Foundations formula to encourage the Club to come up with funding for the library.

IX. Good of the Order

1. Ron Eng noted that Jim, Bill, Brad, Jamie, and Patty all get our thanks as they complete their service on the BoT. He extended the thanks of the BoT.
2. Jim French reported that his branch got a program development grant for trail work and now with 12 hours of stewardship work a person could receive a stewardship patch. French presented a stewardship patch to Ken Madden, thanked him, and encouraged the other Board members to participate.
3. Jim Burke, Brad Gibson, and Bill Deters all individually noted it had been a pleasure serving on the BoT and thanked everyone for the opportunity.
4. Don Heck thanked Bill Deters for taking on job of reviewing the policies and bylaws. It was hugely necessary and overdue.
5. Steve Costie reported he will be out October 21st for knee ACL surgery and will return as healing allows.

X. Adjourn

It was moved (Madden) and seconded (Romer) that the meeting be adjourned.

The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:12 PM.

Respectfully,

John Wick, BoT Secretary