



The Mountaineers

Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees December 4, 2008

Board members present:

Officers

President - Eric Linxweiler
Tab Wilkins - President Elect
Secretary - Steve Sears
Treasurer: Mike Dean
VP Properties - Dave Claar
VP Publishing – Don Heck
Past President - Bill Deters

Trustees at Large

Kirk Alm
Rich Draves
Dale Flynn
Ed Henderson
Lynn Hyde
Don Schaechtel
Dave Shema
Eva Schoenleitner, participated via conference call
Mona West

Branch Trustees

Steven Glenn - Bellingham
Mike Maude – Seattle
Jimmy James – Kitsap
Tom Shimko – Tacoma
John Flanagan – Olympia

Board Members Absent

Everett Trustee - Rob Simonson
Foothills Trustee - Gerry Haugen

Others Present

Executive Director: Steve Costie, in the building running Banff
Books Publisher: Helen Cherullo
Controller: Brian Horstman
Foundation President: Jamie Gordon
Conservation: Mike Shurgot

Guests Present:



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Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM by Mountaineers President Eric Linxweiler in Room 108 at the Magnuson headquarters. The President and Secretary were in attendance. A quorum was established.

Approve Agenda

It was moved by Dave Claar and seconded to approve the agenda. The motion passed.

Approve Minutes of November 2008 Meeting

It was moved by Bill Deters and seconded to approve minutes of the November 2008 meeting. The motion passed.

Approve Consent Agenda

It was moved by Steve Sears and seconded to approve the Consent Agenda as presented in the board packet. The Consent Agenda is repeated below.

1. Approval of Books Governance Board Members: Bill Borden, Helen Cherullo – Publisher, Mike Dean, Casey Doyle, Art Freeman, Jeff Hancock, Don Heck – Chair, Brian Horstman – Controller, Bill Maxwell, Craig Rowley, Mona West.
2. Approval of the establishment of Board of Trustees Ad Hoc Committee named “*Mountaineering: Freedom of the Hills* Edition 8 Revision Committee”

The motion passed

Officer/Staff Reports

President Eric Linxweiler reported:

- Committee Updates
 - The Snoqualmie Land Use Committee is still making progress. Expect a report in January or February
- The President’s Reception will be held 12/12 at the clubhouse
- Attended the impressive Everett Branch annual banquet

President Elect Tab Wilkins reported:

- Helped organize and run two board orientation sessions for new and existing board members in November and December
- Participated as a facilitator in Seattle Leadership Class
- Met with Seattle Hiking Activity and Seattle Branch Council regarding changes in the car pooling system
- Rescheduled Managing Committee meeting for Dec 11th as a joint meeting with the Finance Committee



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- Continued to complete the Internal Self-Assessment of Activity Standards across the branches, expect to work with outside partner in new year for external audit of the standards process
- Continued to work on Club-wide Standards for supporting Youth Activities for 14 to 18 year olds.

Executive Director Steve Costie was attending to the Banff Mountain Film Festival and submitted a written report after the meeting, see attachments

Secretary Steve Sears reported:

- The next Board of Trustees meeting is scheduled for January 8, 7 pm at the Seattle clubhouse

Treasurer Mike Dean reported:

- The club cash flow is a minus \$28,000 YTD
- We experienced lower than budgeted Building Sales because of delayed move to Magnuson.
- The Banff Film Fest revenue experienced a timing variance
- Club membership drop rate continues above budget
- Our Building Fund is not yet invested
 - Committees are looking for investment advisors within club

Vice-President Publishing Don Heck reported:

Helen Cherullo gave an overview of the October Books operations

- Oct Sales were greater than budgeted
- Oct Net Income was better than budgeted
- Oct Returns were higher than normal
- November returns were very high
- December 1st week appears to be a strong start to the month.

The discussion turned to the strategic plan the Books Division will employ to weather the difficult environment that the publishing industry is now experiencing.

The Board noted:

- Any plan for the future needs a buffer in these volatile times
 - Books will develop such a plan
- Management has created a very comprehensive spreadsheet model for finely detailed analysis
 - New model includes front list and back list information
 - New model includes Cost of Goods Sold in detail
- The Division is examining titles that may be cancelled or delayed
- The Front List is being examined as to the number of titles



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- Employee retention is paramount to the business for after the recession
- The plan will likely include looking for options in printing methods to improve short term cash flow
- Strategic plan should investigate outsourcing the warehouse functions
 - This will create a lack of cash inflow for about 2 months
 - This economy supports the clubs position for negotiations
- In 12 days or less the division will present a revised business plan to the Books Governance Board that will address these concepts
- Board members were asked to provide guidance to the Books Governance Board on what our Books Division means to the Club and to the Board of Trustee

Vice-President Recreational Properties Dave Claar reported:

- The Division is hoping for snow and meanwhile is catching up on maintenance
- There are continuing issues with FS road 5400
- He will attend the meeting on the 11th on branch use of Snoqualmie Campus
- The Kitsap water system is certified, the final inspection is imminent

Program Reports

Conservation Division Mike Shurgot reported:

- The Division Party is set for December 17th, 6 pm, please RSVP
- The Environmental Issues course is scheduled

Recreational Resources Division: No report

Bellingham Branch: Steven Glenn reported:

- The branch courses are filling up nicely
- They are expecting a great year of fun courses

Everett Branch: Rob Simonson: absent

Seattle Branch: Mike Maude reported:

- The branch has moved the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner to February
- The Climbing course is under way with 140 participants
- Ken Hahn, Program Development Associate is leading changes to alter the presentation format for MOFA
 - The Navigation Course presentation will be Kens next focus

Kitsap Branch: Jimmy James reported:

- Kitsap established a new internal committee to schedule events for the year making sure that there are no timing conflicts with other branches.

Foothills Branch: Gerry Haugen: absent

Olympia Branch: John Flanagan reported:

- Many Olympia classes will begin January 5th
- The Olympia Banff Film Festival is this weekend and is selling out

Tacoma Branch: Tom Shimko reported:

- The Hark program has a new chair person
- Branch management is having a strategic planning session



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- The Tacoma Banff Film Festival is next Tuesday
 - The club property in Tacoma is being considered for designation as a Historic District
 - The Carbon River has shifted, moving closer to the clubs Irish Cabin property
- Mountaineers Foundation: Jamie Gordon reported:
- The Foundation received a generous donation of \$250,000 from Jim Lee the owner of Cascade Design
 - Another Kitsap Reserve neighbor would like to sell their adjacent property
 - There is a new website for The Mountaineers Foundation
 - The new site will now allow donors to donate online
 - The Foundation is planning a March 26th fund raising event at Magnuson

Good of the Order

- Eric Linxweiler requested that Board members email him and describe your involvement in the Boards affairs.
- Ed Henderson: Chief cat herder (Volunteer Active Committees move coordinator) on the Magnuson move expressed thanks to the committees and staff and provided the Board with examples of leftover items from the Queen Ann closets
- Tom Shimko: recalled his time spent with Jim Lee the Mountaineers Foundations latest benefactor
- Dale Flynn: expressed that the poor acoustics in rooms at Magnuson were noted by the NFCC who are proceeding with a solution
- Tab Wilkins attended the Burke Exhibit and was taken with the quality and impact of the presentation

Adjournment

It was moved by Don Heck and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:29 pm

Attachment List:

1. Executive Director Report
2. Conservation Executive Committee Report
3. Foothills Branch Report

Executive Director Report presented after the Board Meeting of December 4th 2008

- Attended new BOT trustee training on 12/1. I will offer a special “**Meet the Executive Director**” session at the request of Tab Wilkins and other attendees.
- Began forming *ad hoc* committee on creating the **2009 Annual Report**
- **Finished the move from QA300** and the clean out of debris, garbage, and abandoned material from that site.
- Held several **Building Operations Committee meetings** since move-in day and we are working on making the new facility an easily run operation for both staff and volunteers.
- Conducted the **Mountaineers Productions for both the Glen Denny Yosemite in the Sixties show and the 3-day Banff World Tour**, all to huge crowds who loved the new place.
- Worked with the **NY Times on a video project** focused on climbing legend Fred Beckey, we hosted the interview in the indoor climbing wall room.
- Met with **Scott Marlow about the Marketing Task List** that I presented to Eric and others on Nov 11th. We are moving forward quickly on near-term marketing objectives
- Prepared for our next big event for members **Grand Opening on 12/13**.
- Planned for **Mountaineers Productions in January**—Colin Angus on 1/22/09.
- Worked with **Snoqualmie Land Use Committee and Mithun** to help define program feature of site. Met with Mithun at Building 67 to illustrate “instructional/teaching site”
- **NW Issues Course** is coming up beginning on January 12th—*Climate Change...and what you can do....*

CONSERVATION DIVISION REPORT
BOT DECEMBER 4, 2008

- 1) The CEC would like to invite all BoT members to the division's annual holiday party at **6 PM on Wednesday, Dec. 17th** at the home of Carol and Norm Winn at **1230 16th Avenue E., Seattle**. Please email Mike Shurgot at mwshurgot@earthlink.net if you can attend. We will provide all food and drinks.
- 2) The Seattle Environmental Issues Course will commence January 12th, 2009 and will occur on that date and Jan. 26th; Feb. 9th and 23rd; and March 9th and 16th. The principal theme will be: "Climate Change: Understanding the Science and What You Can do about it." Independent study credit will be available through University of Washington, Seattle University, and Antioch University. Many thanks to Leesa Wright for all of her work on this important outreach effort.
- 3) The Puget Sound Partnership has approved its Action Agenda for the restoration and preservation of Puget Sound by 2020. CEC will participate in this broad based coalition process.
- 4) Brookfield Asset Management in Toronto, Ontario has acquired lands formerly owned by Longview Timberlands in the Skykomish River Valley in King and Skykomish counties and in the Wenatchee River Valley in Chelan County. Harry Romberg has forwarded a letter to the CEC that asks Brookfield to reconsider its logging plans for these parcels and to meet environmental groups that want to protect many of these environmentally sensitive areas. This letter has been signed by several environmental organizations, including The Wilderness Society, Sierra Club, American Rivers, North Cascades Conservation Council, Washington Trails Association, and Alpine Lakes Protection Society. CEC will seek Eric's approval to sign on to this letter, especially as many of these proposed logging operations are close to the Iron Goat Trail with which the Mountaineers has a long history.
- 5) The CEC is preparing a substantial display for the open house at the new clubhouse on Dec. 13th. Ed Henderson (chair), Mike Shurgot, Donna Osseward, and Leesa Wright are working on this committee.

Submitted by Mike Shurgot, CEC Chair

Foothills Branch report submitted after the Board meeting December 4th 2008

1. Paul Bannick, photographer/author of Mountaineers Books "Owl and The Woodpecker" presented his slide show at the Nov. Branch gathering to an enthusiastic crowd.
2. The Dec. 16th Foothills Branch meeting will be a demonstration of the latest in snowshoe and ski equipment by experts from Marmot Mountain Works and the program will be co-sponsored by Bellevue Parks and Recreation. See Foothills website for details.
3. Foothills Trail Maintenance committee received a \$7,000 grant from the Mountaineers Foundation to publish an updated guidebook of plants and wildlife at Gold Creek Pond, to design and build signage for the picnic area and trails, and to perform trail improvements around Gold Creek Pond. Foothills volunteers will be working in collaboration with other organizations under the supervision and direction of the USFS. Planning is underway now for the guidebook and signage, the outdoor projects will begin next spring.
4. Saturday morning January 17th the Foothills Backcountry Ski & Snowboard Committee' will host and conduct a Level 1 Avalanche Refresher for ski and snowboard leaders, or any other Level 1 graduate seeking refreshing. We will update attendees on the latest in avalanche science, snow stability tests and analysis, the new digital beacons on the market, and the latest in avalanche rescue practices and procedures. Signup is on the Mountaineers webpage under avalanche activities. We'll meet at 0900 at the Snoqualmie Campus. Free coffee and donuts will be served!
Holiday Best Wishes to All!

Gerry Haugen, Board of Trustee representing the Foothills Branch