



Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

March 15, 2025

Location: The Mountaineers Seattle Program Center (and via Zoom)

Unofficial Summary

- Approved January 2025 minutes
- Approved funding of Meany Lodge renovations

Attendance

Officers

Manisha Powar President
Rich Draves Vice President
Paul Stevenson Treasurer
Vanessa Wheeler Secretary
Roger Mellem VP of Governance
Amanda Piro VP of Branches
Gabe Aeschliman Past President

Directors at Large

Dave Foong
Carry Porter
James Henderson
Robert White
Siana Wong
Ramki Pitchuiyer

Branch Directors

Danielle Graham Seattle Branch Director
Liz McNett Crowl Foothills Branch Director
Mark Goodro Kitsap Branch Director
Matt Hansen Everett Branch Director
Jonah Stinson Bellingham Branch Director

Non-Voting Board Members*

Members Absent

Mark Kerr VP of Outdoor Centers
Takeo Kuraishi Director at Large
Maya Magarati Director at Large
Samantha Sanders Director at Large
Anita Wilkins Director at Large
Serene Chen Director at Large
Alex Pratt Director at Large
Mark Walters Director at Large
Jonathan Foster Tacoma Branch Director
Mike Riley Olympia Branch Director

Staff*

Tom Vogl CEO
Tom Helleberg Publisher
Brianne Vanderlinden Director of Community Engagement
Jackson Guitierrez Development Officer
Michelle Song Associate Director of Leadership
Rich Heine Director of Finance & Administration
Betsy Robblee Director of Conservation & Advocacy
Becca Polglase Director of Programs & Operations

Guests*

McKenzie Campbell Davies
Daniel Poor

*non-voting attendees

Minutes

Call to Order

The planning meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m. by Board President Manisha Powar, with the business meeting being called to order at 2:16 p.m. Manisha did introductions to McKenzie Campbell Davies and Daniel Poor, who conducted a bi-annual survey of the membership on what members value. She also thanked Gabe Aeschliman as he rolls off the board.

President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Past President, VP of Governance, and VP of Branches, were in attendance. 18 of 28 voting Board members were present. A quorum was established and was maintained throughout the meeting.

Agenda

Manisha Powar shared the meeting agenda, which was adopted by the Board without objection.

Consent Agenda

Manisha proposed that we make minor corrections to the consent agenda, including to the Equity and Belonging committee name and the date of the consent agenda, which shall say March 15 instead of April. Manisha shared the consent agenda:

- ★ Roger Mellem moved to approve the consent agenda, as corrected. The motion was seconded by Amanda Piro and passed without objection.

Committee and Staff Reports

Finance: Rich Heine and Tom Vogl presented the mid-flight for 2025 financials and The Mountaineers three-year plan. Tom Helleberg also presented on financials for The Mountaineers Books.

Old Business

Topic: Tom Vogl presented an update on the SHSA prevention policy. James Henderson has agreed to step in to chair the new committee, and Danielle Graham has offered to join the committee, but someone still needs to volunteer for the Vice Chair role. In the weeks ahead, there will be work on filling out the committee. The Interim SHSA Policy was approved by the Executive Committee and has already been used. The safety committee has agreed to engage with the SHSA committee to include emotional safety. The SHSA Committee will be looking at Member Code of Ethics, Prohibited Behavior Policy, and Investigation Policy.

Topic: Tom Vogl presented on the Meany Capital Proposal (set for Summer 2025). This is a last-minute addition to the agenda because the contractor that would like to embark on the work this summer needs The Mountaineers to sign a contract to start work. The work is the revitalization of Meany Lodge to ensure its compliance with existing law.

- ★ Carry Porter moved to approve \$280K funding for the first phase of the Meany Lodge renovations, \$200k of which is from the Holocene Grant and \$80k of which is from the Snoqualmie Proceeds. The motion was seconded was Roger Mellem and passed without objection after discussion. The approved proposal is attached hereto as Exhibit 1.

New Business

Topic: Bi-Annual Member Survey. Mckenzie and Daniel presented on the bi-annual member survey. In January 2025, The Mountaineers has about 16,650 members (though 1,948 were minors and 1,901 had no email addresses). The survey represents impressions and values of a small portion of our membership. Most our members still recommend The Mountaineers, and more people are willing to renew their membership.

Topic: Michelle Song presented on course capacity, particularly around the question of what the greatest barriers to increasing course capacity are.

Topic: Tom Helleberg presented on the newest additions and award-winning titles from The Mountaineers Books.

Topic: Bri Vanderlinden presented on the status of the 2025 Gala, scheduled for April 26, 2025. Three things she focused on (1) Mountaineers Books campaign; (2) Gala 2025; (3) Spring Appeal. Bri noted The Mountaineers is slightly more than halfway to its 100% goal on board participation. Following the Gala, The Mountaineers we will move straight into its “Give Big” Campaign as its Spring Appeal, where it will solicit small donations to build to bigger fundraising amounts.

Topic: Betsy presented on The Mountaineers response to federal land manager firings and budget cuts. She focused on the impact on our federal land managers, particularly the forest service, which has always been underfunded compared to the park.

Good of the Order

Happy Hour is starting right now.

Announcements

March 22 | South Sound Leadership Conference, Tacoma PC

April 26 | Annual Gala

May 19 | Spring Gear Grab

May 22 | Board Meeting

Adjournment

Robert moved to adjourn the meeting. Without objection, Manisha Powar declared the meeting adjourned at 3:19pm

Submitted by Vanessa Wheeler, Board Secretary

Approved by The Mountaineers Board of Directors <TBD>

EXHIBIT 1

Proposal for Board Consideration

Phase 1 Capital Proposal:

- Summer 2025/Phase 1
- \$280K total capital
 - \$200K - Holocene Grant
 - \$80K - Snoqualmie Proceeds
- Includes 10% contingency
- Secures contractor now for this summer

Next steps:

- Finalize agreement with contractor
- \$100K deposit to secure resources for summer 2025 work
- Complete three-year proposed capital budgets for all lodges
- Share proposed plan and capital campaign with BoD in May

Motion to approve?

