



Branch Leadership Committee
Meeting Minutes for December 21, 2022
6:00pm to 7:30pm via Zoom

Meeting Information

Zoom Meeting [Link](#)

Branch Leadership Members

- Attending: James H, Nick M (EVE), Brad P (FH), Craig Kartes (SEA), Tess W (SEA), Curtis S (TAC), Brad Near (SEA), Melissa White (KIT), Cindy (Global Adventures), Sara, Becca, Michelle

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions--James
2. Review and approval of the meeting agenda for December 21, 2022
Motion: Nick; Secon: Tess: Meeting Agenda for Dec. 21, 2022, Approved
3. Review and approval of the meeting [minutes](#) from November 16, 2022
Motion: Tess; Second Brad P: Minutes for November 16, 2022, Approved
4. Branch Reports—Mountaineer Branch Chairs
 - Open leadership positions
 - Relevant Updates
 - Nick (Everett): Not too much going on given the time of year. The Climbing Committee did find a climbing chair replacement. The new Climbing chair will take over fully in June 2023. The Board Director term expires in April and will actively recruit for that position soon.
 - Brad P (Foothills): Annual Celebration on Friday, December 16, 2022. Twice as many people attended compared to 2021. There were a lot of new members present which we hope will translate into additional volunteers in the future. We have a candidate to fill the Board of Directors position and expect to vote on the candidate in January. The only open position is Chair Elect. A number of courses are about to be posted. New treasurer has been fantastic. Nancy Temkin received a service award.
 - Tess (Seattle): Craig Kartes will take over as Branch Chair in January 2023. Overall, everything is humming along nicely—courses are filling up, no emergency red flags, and we have been talking to the Naturalist Committee about the “Exploring Nature Tag”. The Seattle Branch approved the Backcountry ski committee. The name may be changed to Backcountry touring to support splitboards. We are putting in place an informal process to support branch member donations. Are other



branches receiving donations? Is there any paperwork to accept the donations? How are you tracking donations to your branch?

- Brad P (FH): Travis ran a pilot initiative last year on this issue. Just a matter of having donations earmarked to a specific branch. Plan to renew the pilot next year and will promote it within the Branch. There is a process to get company donations to go to a specific Branch. I'd recommend reaching out to Travis about the process.
- Brad N (SEA): The Mountaineers Board retreat was held at Meany Lodge. Overall a good meeting and we had time to tour the grounds and see the area. Regarding donations that are general to the club vs designated; a number of donors designate gifts to either certain branches and projects. As a result issues arise about whether funds can be utilized effectively as donating to specific branches limits the organization's ability to grow. General donations are important to fund Mountaineer activities across the club. It is interesting to hear about pros and cons of specific donations. It would be useful for the Board to discuss the issue and prioritize donations.
- Curtis (Tacoma): Not too much to update. There was a volunteer recognition event in early December and we presented branch service awards. Turnout was small but everyone enjoyed getting together. Megan Hartness received the service award.
- Melissa (Kitsap): Kind of quiet in the last month. Climbing classes for Spring are posted. The Navigation Committee is looking for a new home for the field trip but has a few options.

5. Committee & Organizational Reports

- Safety –Bill
 - Safety Updates & Lessons Learned
- Global Adventures—Cindy
 - Global Adventures has four new leaders and is posting new trips for 2023. Future trips in the upcoming years are looking promising. In 2022, there were a total of five trips led with a combined contribution of \$18,000. Ten trips are posted or in the planning stages for 2023.
- Operations - Sara & Becca
 - [Volunteer Appreciation Night](#) - Celebrating 2022
 - January 28, 2023, 5:00pm to 7:30pm, Seattle Program Center.
 - Michelle: Reminder about Branch Service Awards, please send them to Michelle by the end of December so they can be included in the program. We would love to have a Branch Chair or officer at the Appreciation to present the award.
 - Sara: Please make sure the event is on your calendars. This will be an in-person event and Michelle will do a big push to get the word out. The event is open to friends and family and is free. The



event program will largely be the same as past volunteer appreciation dinners, however it will be a little less formal and more casual. There will not be a keynote speaker but the event will include a screening of the film, “Climbers of Color”. Please see additional details on the event page.

- Reimagine Leadership Conference: A fun event and included the new Foundations of Leadership. Over 10% of Mountaineers volunteers have taken the e-learning course. The in-person conference supported updates to the e-learning course content. Overall feedback on the course has been really good.
 - Craig (SEA): Excellent meeting and showed the value of in-person meetings.
- First Aid Summit: The summit has been rescheduled to in-person and will be held on the same day as the volunteer appreciation, January 28, 2023. The summit is now taking RSVPs.
- Branch Offices: Please verify with Becca the current branch Chair and Treasurers. Rich, Director of Finance, is putting together a branch treasurer committee to support operations and budgeting.

6. Activity Charters & Standards

- Climbing Council [Charter & Workflow](#)
 - 2nd Reading & Discussion
 - Motion to Approve: Nick (EVE); Second Curtis (TAC): 2nd Reading of the Climbing Council Charter and Workflow approved.
- Navigation
 - [Navigation Council Charter](#)
 - 1st Reading & Discussion
 - Sara: Charter is fairly straightforward and similar to other charters from activities. A lot of work to show differences between on-trail and off-trail standards.
 - Melissa: Interesting to see the process and insightful discussions. People left the summit feeling good about the outcomes. Nice to have a group that could work together.
 - Sara: I'll reply to Cheryl's comment to resolve the draft.
 - Motion to Approve: Tess (SEA); Second Melissa (KIT): First reading of the Navigation Council Charter approved
 - Activity Standards—[On Trail Navigation](#)
 - 1st Reading & Discussion
 - Motion to Approve: Nick (EVE); Second Curtis (TAC): First reading of the On Trail Navigation Standards approved
 - Activity Standards—[Off Trail Navigation](#)
 - 1st Reading & Discussion
 - Motion to Approve: Brad P (FH); Second Tess (SEA): First reading of the Off Trail Navigation Standards Approved



- Updated Activity Council & Standards [Spreadsheet](#)
 - Great progress for 2022!

7. Information & Discussion Items

- Charters & Standards
 - Branch Charters—Charters are approved by the Board.
 - Here's a link to the [Kitsap Branch Charter](#) that we reviewed during the November 16 BLC meeting, which can serve as a good template for other Branch Charters.
 - Activity Council Charters (Org-wide group for an activity that oversees things like standards.)— Charters are approved by BLC.
 - Branch Activity Committee Charters (Specific group at a branch that oversees that activity at the branch.). Charters are approved by the sponsoring Branch. Charter template: [Committee Charter Template](#)
 - Nick (EVE): Raised the questions of charters both branches and activities. Is there a timeline for branch activity charters? What needs to be in the branch activity charter? Strictly governance and eligibility? When should these be done?
 - Becca: The priority is Branch charters and once those are completed can then begin work on branch activity charters.
 - Sara: Charter is how a group works, makes decisions and operates. Branch activity charter derives authority from the branch and aligns with organization wide activity charter.
 - Naturalist Update
 - Proposal: Use “Nature Hike” within Hiking activity type.
 - Proposal: Establish a “Nature Hiking” tag. This tag would designate a more leisurely hike for people who don't want to go on difficult hikes. The “Exploring Nature Tag” would be sunsetted because there are no standards to support the activity.
 - Brad P: important to communicate and to demonstrate how to add that category tag to the activity.
 - Sara: I'll send out a draft email to Brad, Tess and James to review. Once approved, the email will be sent to Naturalist and Day Hike chairs in January 2023.
 - Motion—Place a Nature Hike category tag within Day Hike activity type to serve as a searchable function:
 - Motion to Approve: Nick (EVE)/Second Melissa (Kit): Motion is approved.

8. Adjourn

- Next meeting BLC Meeting: January 18, 2023
 - Motion to adjourn: Brad P (FH); Second Nick (EVE): Motion to adjourn is passed.