



Branch Leadership Committee
Meeting Minutes for January 18, 2023
6:00pm to 7:30pm via Zoom

Meeting Information

Zoom Meeting [Link](#)

Branch Leadership Members Present

James H; Nathan Andrus (BHAM); Nick M (EVE); Brad P (FH); John M (KIT); Scott C (OLY);
Craig K (SEA); Curtis S (TAC); Cindy H (GA); Sara R; Becca P

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions--James
2. Review and approval of the meeting agenda for January 18, 2023
Motion to Approve: Nick/ Second: Brad: Approved
3. Review and approval of the meeting [minutes](#) from December 21, 2022
Motion to Approve: Curtis/Second: Craig: Approved
4. Branch Reports—Mountaineer Branch Chairs
 - Open leadership positions
 - Relevant Updates
 - John (KIT): Courses started. No problems to report. Basic, intermediate and climbing courses are underway.
 - Brad (FH): Branch council meeting on January 10, 2023. Liz McNekril was elected as the Acting Foothills Board of Director and will serve until Fall 2023. A new fundraising strategy has been passed and the branch has created a new strategic investment subcommittee chaired by Travis Prescott. The committee will review proposals from committee chairs for potential funding. Still looking for a chair elect.
 - FYI for Branches: Mountaineers Workplace Giving Overview and Corporate [Match](#).
 - Craig (SEA): Craig has completed the transition into the role of Branch Chair for Seattle. Currently the Chair-Elect position is open. Patty will stay on as Secretary for another year. Course activities underway include scrambling and snowshoeing.
 - Scott (OLY): Branch activities are going smoothly with winter courses underway. The Basic Climbing course has 25 registered and the Scrambling Course has 18 registered. Donna Kruger is coming back to chair the Hiking/Backpacking Committee. Currently, there are no open officer positions. Discussion on developing the branch charter will begin



shortly. Scott highlighted a recent [blog](#) about the Equity and Inclusion Toolkit for Leaders by Siana Wong.

- Nick (EVE): Looking for a Board Director to represent the branch. New classes are beginning—intermediate to select applicants for rock and glacier. Scrambling starts in February and snowshoe and nordic skiing are underway. The Stewardship Committee has been rebooted and rejuvenated. A Snohomish County Parks ranger was at the recent branch meeting to discuss volunteer opportunities to support county parks.
- Curtis (TAC): The Tacoma Branch Council will meet next week. Currently, the Treasurer position is open and is being actively recruited. Winter travel courses are underway to include snowshoeing and camping. Scrambling starts in February.
- Nathan (BH): First lecture for Basic Climbing has completed and Intermediate Climbing starts in 2 weeks. The Branch is developing a “beta course” for scrambling. The goal is to make it a full course program in 2024. The branch has a new chair for the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) committee and we are looking for ideas from other branches to support DEI.

5. Committee & Organizational Reports

- Safety –Bill
 - Safety Updates & Lessons Learned: Ashby preparing annual safety report, adding information and revising incident reports for 4Q 2022, then creating charts/graphs for trends for years including full-year 2022. Will share draft with Safety Committee and then will publish.
- Global Adventures—Cindy
 - First canyoning global adventure in Arizona.
- Operations - Sara & Becca
 - Essentials Eligibility [Criteria](#)
 - Becca: Board policies on club wide activity standards that need to be updated. Those updates will fold into Essentials Eligibility Criteria (EEC). EEC is governed by club wide activity standards and is thus under the purview of the Branch Leadership Committee (BLC). The updated EEC will include Canyoneering.
 - Question: How does it relate from an activity standard? Yes, they are related and similar and provide guidance relative to that activity. Makes sense to be a BLC policy that is governed by board policy. EEC is pretty basic so little risk of the EEC contradicting an activity charter.
 - Nick: Reminded of a situation at a climbers rendezvous. Not an official trip but consisted of Mountaineers. Spouse came along and had to scramble with exposure. Spouse was visually impaired. The spouse returned ok. Could the EEC have been helpful to mitigate the situation?



- Becca: Yes, the EEC is meant to be a helpful to document
- Motion to Approve First Reading: Cindy/Second: Nick: Approved first reading.
- Board Activities Policies
 - Policy to be updated to codify BLC role to approve EEC.
- [Volunteer Appreciation Night](#) & Awards
 - Still need confirmation on Tacoma Branch Award presenter/script
 - In-person on January 28, 2023 at Seattle Program Center. The event is casual and attendance is free. Family and friends are welcome but please RSVP. All award recipients have been finalized, however we need confirmation of whom from Tacoma can present the award.
- Equity and Inclusion Leader Toolkit: The Toolkit will be communicated through “Leader lines”.
- Emotional Safety in the Outdoors e-learning course. The link will be shared in “Leader Lines”, and is supplemental to the foundation courses.
- Garret Arnold's last day is today. Please provide your thanks. Avery is filling Garret's position.

6. Activity Charters & Standards

- Navigation
 - [Navigation Council Charter](#)
 - 2nd Reading & Discussion
 - Motion to Approve 2nd Read: Curtis/ Second: Scott: 2nd Reading is Approved.
 - Activity Standards—[On Trail Navigation](#)
 - 2nd Reading & Discussion
 - Motion to Approve 2nd Reading: Nick/ Second: Brad: 2nd Reading is Approved.
 - Activity Standards—[Off Trail Navigation](#)
 - 2nd Reading & Discussion
 - Nick: The format different than on-trail
 - Motion to Approve 2nd Reading: Craig/Second: James: 2nd Reading is Approved.
- Hiking Council [Charter](#)
 - 1st Reading & Discussion
 - Becca: Hiking/Backpacking/Urban Walks committee meeting voted to have separate standards. So, there are three council charters and standards. Backpacking standards should be ready for BLC review in February.
 - Brad: Is there overlap in terms of committee volunteers?



- Becca; Yes, we had a discussion about that. Some committee members do overlap. The annual summits occur on the same day to share updates and then split up into separate councils.
 - Craig K: Seattle was pleased with the process and the summit.
 - Motion to Approve 1st Reading of the Hiking Council Charter: Nathan/ Second: Curtis: First Reading is Approved.
- Hiking Activity [Standards](#)
 - 1st Reading & Discussion
 - Nick: Question about the 2nd bullet under trips for off-trail . Becca will share the question with the Hiking Council to indicate the type of terrain and what percentage of the hike could be off-trail. For example, 20%.
 - Motion to Approve the 1st Reading of the Hiking Standards: Craig/ Second: Cindy: 1st Reading of the Hiking Standards Approved.
- Backpacking Council [Charter](#)
 - 1st Reading & Discussion
 - Nathan: The charter is misnumbered.
 - Becca will check and edit.
 - Motion to Approve the 1st Reading of the Backpacking Council Charter: Nick/ Second: Curtis: 1st Reading of the Backpacking Council Charter is Approved
- Urban Walks Council [Charter](#)
 - 1st Reading & Discussion
 - Comment: The Charter is also misnumbered.
 - Motion to Approve the 1st Reading of the Urban Walks Council Charter: Nick/ Second: Nathan: 1st Reading of the Urban Walks Council Charter is Approved
- Urban Walks Activity [Standards](#)
 - 1st Reading & Discussion
 - Comment: Number of readline and strikeouts. Shows what was pulled out for backpacking.
 - Question: Party size of 3: For front country trail runs the number is 2. Why not 2 for urban walks? I
 - Motion to Approve 1st Reading of the Urban Walks Activity Standards: Nick/ Second: Brad: 1st Reading of the Urban Walks Activity Standards Approved.
- Trail Running Council [Charter](#)
 - 1st Reading & Discussion
 - Comment: The charter is misnumbered. Not clear about active committee members. Is it members or an active committee chair? Idea is to make sure the committee is active under other branches. Suggest is say “consist of all chairs of active trail running committees.”



- Becca can make clarifications.
- Motion to Approve 1s Reading of the Trail Running Council Charter: Cindy/ Second: Craig: 1st Reading of the Trail Running Council Charter is Approved.
- Trail Running [Standards](#)
 - 1st Reading & Discussion
 - Comment: Update revision date.
 - Question: Is there flexibility for leadership requirements at the committee level?
 - Question: How should we address flexibility? Need to tighten up the leadership part of the standards before approving the first reading.
 - Motion: Hold to approve first reading until leadership standards are edited and finalized: Motion: Nick/ Second: Mel: Approved.
- Updated Activity Council & Standards [Spreadsheet](#)
 - Great progress to the start of 2023!
 - First aid later this spring
 - Sailing is still being worked on.

7. Branch Charters

- Everett Branch [Charter](#)
 - 1st Reading & Discussion
 - Nick: Adheres closely to the draft Kitsap Branch Charter. Went through existing rules and policies. Updated annual meeting. Only significant change was having a Vice-Chair as opposed to a Chair-Elect. Also looking into something more inclusive than Robert's Rules of Order for meetings.
 - Nathan: When do the branch charters need to be done?
 - Becca: Goals is to have them complete by 2023. Just follow the process that serves your branch.
 - Scott: Can you reach out to Jeannette to talk about the Olympia charter? We have long-standing branch rules that could serve as the basis for the charter. What is the best path forward?
 - Becca: Yes, I'll meet with Scott and Jeannette to discuss.
 - Craig: At the last Seattle Branch council meeting, Peter H talked about branch charters. Three questions: have you read the charter for your committee? Useful and helpful? How many in the first edition and revised?
 - Motion to Approve 1st Reading of the Everett Branch Charter: Brad/ Second: Mel: 1st Reading of the Everett Branch Charter Approved.

8. Information & Discussion Items

- Naturalist Update
 - We will be adding a new Naturalist activity type and retiring the Exploring Nature tab by the end of May, 2023. This has been communicated with all parties and we have not heard any negative feedback.



- Becca: great job.

9. Adjourn

- Next meeting BLC Meeting: February 15, 2023
 - Motion to Adjourn: Nick/ Second: Curtis: Meeting is Adjourned.