

Bellingham Mountaineers Branch Committee Meeting Minutes

May 23rd, 2023 6:30 PM

Present: Nathan Andrus, Eric Henry Minda Paul, Justin Blackburn, Tim Schafermeyer, Nathan Reed, AJ Schuehle, Meredith La France, Audrey Gleser, Van Roberts, Laura Plaut and Special Guest Molly Fitzmorris from “the mothership”

| Topic (desired outcome) |
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| <p>Welcome/Introductions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• House rules, attendance (welcome new members)• Agenda review• Approve minutes from last meeting Minda motioned, AJ seconded - all approved! |
| <p>Updates (<2 minutes; information sharing, action item report back)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Branch Chair - (Nathan)picnic series is coming up - first potluck on June 13th. Nathan went to the basic course this past week and got someone to be in charge of cutlery, the grill, etc.• Secretary - (Dana/Laura) Dana wasn't here - no report. Laura took notes• Climbing Committee (BMC, IMC, Crag, Scrambling) - Krissy wasn't here, no report• Hiking Committee - (Eric)-uphill training series is done - it was a little smaller than expected, which wasn't a bad thing! Wednesday hikes will start again - if anyone wants to lead hikes on days other than Wednesday, please contact Eric! The group discussed that the hiking committee is a great first option for students to transition from “consumers” to “contributors/leaders” within the mountaineers• Communications - (AJ) - it would be great to get some updates on the hiking series to throw into the newsletter - AJ appreciates pics from field trips!• Safety - James wasn't here - no report• Diversity, Equality, & Inclusion (Meredith) - DEI committee has been meeting monthly, the group is interested in brainstorming activities beyond the basic course that might serve as a more accessible point of entry. Meredith has been in touch with Molly Fitzmorris and has been added to mountaineers' E&I working group• Board of Directors (Tim) Board met recently, there were a few policy updates - most significantly youth and family (Important to note zero tolerance for a leader being alone with youth - no exceptions) Bellingham branch has never done youth programming (other than parent/child teams) but Minda identified a good opportunity to partner with the YMCA as an easy way to get youth stuff going. Some Mountaineers have been volunteering regularly with Vamos at the Y - Audrey put a plug in for volunteering with them on Fridays. Krissy has been the point of contact with Vamos.• Treasurer - Ryan wasn't here, no report |
| <p>Old Business was not addressed due to time spent on new business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bellingham Branch Charter - Will be soliciting some questions to other leaders on some items• More non-course-based activities<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Social Chair?○ Informal Vital/Y/Erie invites? |

New Business (action/decision needed?)

- **DEI session with Molly Fitzmorris** from *the central E&I committee*. Molly identified that Bellingham branch is a rockstar outliers for having our own branch E&I program (yay, Meredith!) Molly shared a [brief presentation](#) "Equity and Inclusion at The Mountaineers." A couple of takeaways:
 - Land acknowledgements are not within everyone's comfort zone, the Mountaineers' hope is that folks will share stories of the spaces we inhabit in ways that feel comfortable and authentic to each of us. Molly gave the example of her own way of relating to land as a linguist.
 - Equity and inclusion are inherent to Mountaineers core values. Mountaineers is thinking about psychological safety and how we can elevate that to the same level of importance as physical safety on mountaineers trips.
 - Mountaineers recently updated strategic plan, and equity is very purposefully centering equity
 - Examples of cool stuff - Scholarships (make it easier!), pathways to volunteering - how do we get folks engaged early and diversely?
 - E&I Leader Toolkit is awesome - check it out!
 - There is a [feedback link](#) in the slides
 - Laura suggested this ted talk on [calling in rather than calling out](#) (as a way to have hard conversations when folks mis-step on DEI topics)
- **Climate Change Item** - Laura shared [The Week](#) as a potential tool for building community within the Mountaineers around climate action. The group discussed the difference between sanctioned Mountaineers activities and cool things we share with each other that are not officially Mountaineers activities. Laura will continue to explore whether this experience is worth offering formally as a mountaineers activity or just worth sharing as a fun way for folks to connect around an important and mission related issue.
- **New Bear Resistant Canister guidance from parks** - the group discussed and then passed to the climbing committee.
- **In-person next month?** YES - probably at Brandywine

Action Items Review

- Laura will follow up on the fun climate action thing
- Bear Cannisters convo will go to climbing committee for further discussion and action (with a recommendation that climbs that require canisters be flagged as such)
- Next meeting June 27th, 6:30 PM - hopefully at Brandywine - Nathan will confirm

Adjourn - at 7:35