

Bellingham Mountaineers Branch Committee Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: July 25, 2023 6:30 PM

Location: Brandywine, Bellingham

Attending: Nathan Andrus, Dana Ringler, Tim Schaeffermeyer, Brian McNitt, Justin Blackburn, Meredith Lafrance, Nathan Reed, Ben Hoover, AJ Schuehle

Welcome/Introductions:

- Reminder that meeting is open and public; be respectful and concise
- Intros
- Agenda review
- Meeting [minutes from last meeting](#) approved (Motion to approve by Nathan, seconded by Tim.)

Updates

- Branch Chair - (Nathan) - Potlucks have been going great for in-person engagement, people have found out via Instagram or other. Excited to hear more about leadership progression meeting. Krista incident... highlighted the Mountaineers' connection to the Wilderness Chaplains' resources for traumatic stress injuries (info from Tom Vogel), counseling from Katya. **Add the resource to the newsletter? Also other benefits should be public info!**
- Secretary - (Dana) - Rendezvous planning and elections need to be accelerated, no further updates.
- Climbing Committee (BMC, IMC, Crag, Scrambling) - (Krissy) - Basic course exam went well combining practical and written elements with group discussion. The Cornwall park location worked out but we should emphasize carpooling. Crag course went well! Mountaineers Climbing Partner Finder (**add to newsletter!**) is a new platform for folks who have graduated the basic course, all branches.
- Hiking Committee (Hiking, Uphill Training Series) - (Eric) - Planning Wednesday night hikes, but activities are not running very regularly because it is prime climb season. We would like more hike leaders, and we should let basic students know this is a low barrier opportunity to getting involved in the course.
- Communications - (AJ) -
- Safety - (James) - Nathan reported on behalf of James regarding the recent Safety Committee meeting. Progressive Climbing Committee (PCC) is not currently active so there are concerns about standardizations for current safety guidelines for self-belaying, and other recent incident issues.
- Stewardship (Amy) - does this still exist?
- Diversity, Equality, & Inclusion - (Meredith) - Attended ENI meeting for the month (no August meeting, next meeting will be in September), Meredith has been contributing to the newsletter (wrote about ADA signing and adaptive climbing for this month, LGBTQIA+ climbing for June, and AAPI climbing for April, etc.). **Considering women's**

specific climbing excursions (Dana can post to FB for Meredith for informal climbing), if we do want to make it more official we can look into Frontcountry Leadership regulations (Tim assisting)

- Board of Directors - (Tim Schafermeyer) - Next board meeting is next month.
- Treasurer - (Ryan Monahan) - No update.

Old Business (next steps/follow up)

- [Bellingham Branch Charter](#)
 - Concerns regarding charter commitments when we are a small branch that may not be able to fill all elected positions, meet quorums, etc.
 - Issues would come up for voting mandates, term limits,
 - Need a position description from Meredith for DEI committee chair
 - Nathan working to balance specificity and flexibility of charter

New Business (action/decision needed)

- Positions for next year: Treasurer, Hiking committee chair, Branch Chair-Elect, Climbing Chair, Branch Committee Secretary, Communications Coordinator
 - HQ requested election information from Nathan, however, if we cannot provide it then we may proceed with elections on our own timeline
 - Mountaineers HQ system (anonymous but cannot vote multiple times) vs. SurveyMonkey vs. Google forms...
 - Position Descriptions/requirements and communication in upcoming positions
 - Should the Communications Coordinator be elected? What are their committee participation requirements?
 - How does the Social Media Coordinator get decided? What are their committee participation requirements? (If they are representing the branch publicly)
 - Communications Committee discussion for Social Coordinator, Social Media Coordinator, Communications Coordinator, etc. AJ will submit a proposal for such a committee
 - Communicate in Newsletter/ask specific folks
- Select the Service Award Winner
 - Solicit nominations (via newsletter) and then a committee of ?? vote on the awardee
 - Must occur before Rendezvous, and a
- Find Fall Rendezvous host/planner; schedule a venue.
- Zach McGill's PNW climbing community event on Thursday Dec. 14 @ K2 – do we want to table?
 - How can the HQ support us with this?
 - \$1 per pint goes to NWAC
 - Very backcountry snowsports-centric, however, we have the AIARE courses and the Baker lodge to get folks involved in the community

Action Items: