

Bellingham Mountaineers Branch Committee Meeting Minutes - Unapproved

Date/Time: October 24, 2023 6:30 PM

Location: Brandywine, Bellingham

Attending: Nathan Andrus, Tim Schaeffermeyer, Eric Henry, AJ Schuehle, Ben H, James Pierson, Clint Carrell, Meredith LaFrance, Audrey Gleser

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 Tim S, second by Erik)
- Meeting agenda motion to approve (not done)

Updates

- Branch Chair - (Nathan) - Scarlett Graham has agreed to be the Climbing Committee. Ben H is going to be the hiking committee chairperson. Nathan has a line on someone who can be the treasurer and has a contact named Kendra who has agreed to take be the leadership committee secretary. Still need Chair Elect.
- Secretary - (Dana) - not present
- Climbing Committee (BMC, IMC, Crag, Scrambling) - (Krissy/Varun) - Audrey present - Basic course is open and accepting applications. James intends to review the lottery functionality to ensure it works this year. Tim is working with others to get the intermediate application up and online. Group agrees to have Clint post on social media regarding Basic Course being open. Shifting Gears might be a good future organization for reachout to bring in BMC applicants.
- Hiking Committee (Hiking, Uphill Training Series) - (Eric) - Ben H is going to be transitioning to committee chair, Erik will continue posting hikes through December and will connect with Ben this month to discuss the role
- Communications - (AJ/Cassidy) - Met with Cassidy, coached on newsletter and responsibilities of this role. Met with Jack and got a short lesson in wordpress in order to manage the .com site. Made some changes to the site, hiding several links and pages that are out of date and need work. Hid the Crag Course content until future notice. I am going to update our wordpress version which might break something on the site. If that happens we will roll it back to an older version. The update should fix the ongoing issue with the google calendar functionality on the .com site.
- Safety - (James) - recent takeaway from safety officer meeting - in the event of an incident there is value on getting multiple trip reports, this is generally done through follow up on behalf of the safety officer to the participants to ensure multiple perspectives are obtained
- Diversity, Equality, & Inclusion - (Meredith) -.Working to establish relationships with various organizations associated with diversity and inclusion which will be useful for recruitment in the future. Noted her recent inclusion into the Mountaineers DE&I

committee as a board member. Still needs the distribution email with which to send out a survey about DE&I to branch committee members and course graduates (AJ to send). Changing the DE&I meeting

- Board of Directors - (Tim Schafermeyer) - Just had a board meeting and approved next year's budget. Retreat coming up in November. Tomorrow is the annual Mountaineers Meeting, if there is interest it is virtual.
- Treasurer - (Ryan Monahan) - not present

Old Business (next steps/follow up)

- [Bellingham Branch Charter](#) Still in work. Nathan and Tim working hard to get draft finalized and sent out to Exec. Committee for review, approval and submitted to All-Branch Leadership Committee by early to mid November. Intent is to have the Board approve the charter in January, all other dates should accommodate that target.

New Business (action/decision needed)

- Next month's meeting is going to be December 5th
- Nathan has been working with the Mountaineers to better understand the process to create a trail running committee that can run trail run activities. We would need individuals to become trail run leaders. We will need to amend our charter to address the formation of new committees and then follow those steps.
 - Focus is front country all paces, likely to be on a selected weekday evening each week
 - Once a month intermediate pace run in the backcountry

Action Items:

- Future meeting locations and times - Tim votes to move branch leadership meeting back to the 6-7pm slot with Climbing committee following after. **AJ will meet with Varun after transitioning roles and determine schedule**
- **Action Nathan** - follow up to find someone who may be able to lead the crag climbs that have already been scheduled
- AJ to send DL to Meredith for survey
- Move next Months' meeting to December 5th and cancel the December meeting (AJ)
- Nathan to continue working on charter
- Nathan to work with secretaries to ensure they understand duties.