

## **Bellingham Mountaineers Branch Committee Meeting Minutes - Unapproved**

**Date/Time:** December 18, 2023 7:00 PM

**Location:** Zoom

**Attending:** AJ Schuele, Dana Ringler, Ben H., Krista, Tim Schafermeyer, Justin Blackburn, Krista Sutton, James Pierson, Nathan Reed

### **Welcome/Introductions:**

- Reminder that meeting is open and public; be respectful and concise
- Intros
- Agenda review
- Meeting [minutes from last meeting](#) approved
- Meeting agenda motion to approve

### **Updates**

- Branch Chair (AJ Schuehle) - AJ has created a new spreadsheet to document leadership, committee, and volunteer roles and contact information.
- Secretary (Dana) - No update.
- Climbing Committee (Varun) - Updates on subcommittees?
- Hiking Committee (Hiking, Uphill Training Series) - New Hiking Committee Chair, welcome! Hike information can be found on the Mountaineers "activities" page by searching with the filters "Bellingham branch" and "hiking." Hikes are also posted on the branch Instagram account. Ben is managing the Wednesday hikes which has had good turnout from current members and new basic students. Ben has completed Thank you to Audrey and Sasha for leading hikes in December so far.
- Communications (Cassidy) - New Communications Committee Chair, welcome! Speaker series started, turnout was low, but the event was streamed on Facebook live.
- Safety - (James) - No immediate updates, will discuss further during New Business.
- Diversity, Equality, & Inclusion (Meredith) - No update.
- Board of Directors (Tim Schafermeyer) - Most of Board of Directors discussions in last month and a half have been around the Change.org petition, Tim agrees to represent the Bellingham branch's needs and sharing avenues to influence change.
- Treasurer (Krista) - New Treasurer, welcome! Krista was a basic student in 2023 and will be training for this role with help from Ryan and others.

### **Old Business** (next steps/follow up)

- Open positions within branch:
  - Branch Chair Elect (to shadow Branch Chair)
  - Stewardship and Conservation Coordinator (or Chair?) - Chair would be leader of a committee, Coordinator would be in charge of organizing basic course stewardship requirements and contributing to the newsletter. Currently, it makes the most sense to leave this as a Coordinator because there are no committee

members.

- [Bellingham Branch Charter](#) Still in work. Nathan and Tim worked to get the 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 — move to next month...
- Trail running committee — nobody on the call to represent our unofficial trail running group. Tim shared that he communicated with other branches about the Trail Running Leadership requirements to get people formally
- Scheduling crag climbs — Krissy and Jason are no longer leading the Crag Course, we are still looking for leadership to teach the crag course.

### **New Business** (action/decision needed)

- Conditioning series
- Change.org petition — leadership hosted a meeting on December 7
- Is there value to creating a subcommittee for Bellingham to advocate on this issue?
  - Do we have any info on follow up from HQ — Nope. Would like to provide the feedback that we are looking for more actions, more immediately.
    - [Feedback Form](#)
  - Secretary of the Board is an attorney who will be taking action on the sub-committee
  - Sub-committee proposal: Bellingham should gather a group of interested folks, review the Foothills Branch petition, acknowledge what elements of the petition we agree with and support, as well as add agreements
    - Subcommittee member nominations — James will coordinate
    - Immediate changes:
      - Info on the website — James discussed with multiple members that updating the website is the easiest
      - Add to basic course manual?
      - Polling leaders on how people feel about background checks?
      - Communications plan for Bellingham Branch?
      - “Changing the culture”... What does this mean? How can we do that?
    - Questions that we have right now:
      - What is the timeline?
      - Has the subcommittee been formed and who is on it?
      - How will the progress be communicated in the future?
      - When will the broader message be communicated with the full membership (vs just the exec folks who were invited to the 12/7 zoom)
    - What are other branches doing?
  - Branch Leadership Committee Retreat (January 28th, Tacoma) — open to officers (Foothills has 3 people coming), we can finalize attendees in the January meeting.

### **Action Items:**

- Make decision on creation of sub-committee for Bellingham Branch code of conduct.
- Ongoing meeting time and date will be coordinated with the Climbing Committee to be

on the same day. Currently that is the third Monday of every month. Next month that is MLK day so will possibly move. AJ to follow up with Varun.

- Bellingham Branch Charter to be discussed in next meeting (January). AJ to communicate to BLC that our charter is not ready yet during the BLC meeting on 12/20. Items to review:
  - Open questions in the document
  - Inclusion of “at-large” members
  - Inclusion of language in support of our Code of Conduct charter
- Post meeting action item addition: Need to work with Climbing Committee to review and authorize another round of gear purchases by the club. The Bellingham Mountaineers Equipment Inventory document has a tab of recommendations to purchase with Justin’s notes.
- Finalize attendees to the BLC retreat on Sunday January 28th
- New items not able to cover, move to January Meeting Agenda:
  - Email templates - do we use? Is there opportunity to use for our committees/branch email? Refer to [email template](#) and [auto-reply template](#)
  - Branch Committee google groups: Should the existing google groups get cleaned up? Should we create a new google group for branch council?
  - Basecamp: AJ proposes testing this application within either the executive committee or branch council in lieu of google groups.
  - Google account access - 2-factor authentication is live 12/14 not sure how this will impact all who accesses our account.
  - Uphill training series discussion (Ben)