

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

**Date/Time:** January 20, 2024

**Location:** Zoom,

**https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83406059779?pwd=dHcrNjQyaXdKM0lZRHd6RkhMUzFtQT09**

**Attending:** Audrey G. Jonah S. AJ S.

### **Welcome/Introductions:**

- Reminder that meeting is open and public; be respectful and concise
- Intros
- Agenda review
- Approve of previous month meeting minutes - postponed to Feb due to attendance

### **Updates**

- Branch Chair (AJ Schuehle) - BLC request - gauge interest in embroidered jackets as a means to entice and retain more volunteers. What criteria would our branch want to use to determine who gets jackets? Jonah - branch leaders and super volunteers, AJ - intermediate grads. AJ to talk with others in our branch who have received jackets to gauge their feelings on the topic.
- Secretary (Dana) - not present
- Climbing Committee (Tim) -
  - Basic course:
    - intro lecture this week
    - thanks to all who attended the instructor gathering
    - 2 spots for intermediate students/leaders for WFA renewal. Minda sent email to bmli Google group with more info.
  - Intermediate course:
    - intro session in early Feb
    - waterfall ice next field trip on 2/7
    - offered 16 but I will need to checkin with Tara on how many accepted (I assume all) by the deadline we gave them
- Hiking Committee (Hiking, Uphill Training Series) (Audrey) - Sasha taking over Uphill Training series, finalizing scheduled and plan, Audrey will be sending out in the next few weeks. In the meantime Wed hikes continue...
- Communications (Cassidy) - photo sharing changes - moving to a yearly photo sharing folder in the BMC google drive. Jess will work with trip leaders and participants to gather photos for social media. Location of new folder to be communicated to Basic course students during intro lecture. Still an open question about whether to keep the link to the social media photos on the newsletter.
- Safety (James) - not present
- Diversity, Equality, & Inclusion (Meredith) - not present

- Board of Directors: Retreat in March. Jonah attended Jan meeting with Tim and will take over in full next month. Approval of SHSA committee (name?) charter to allow to move forward. Still some frustrations over the pacing. Should be communicating through several routes in near future about next steps and I believe around how to apply to be a committee member.
- Treasurer (Krista) - not present
- Stewardship (Ryan R.) - not present
- Code of Conduct Committee (James/Dana) - Committee meeting scheduled for 1/29. Main topic - planning to host a bystander intervention training course in the next month or so.

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

- [Branch Charter](#) review meeting
- [Yearly Planning Guide](#) Review
- [2025 Mountaineers Calendar review](#)
- Update on Member Bill of Rights - Audrey confirmed that there is content in the intro meeting slide deck. Still need to know if the Bill of Rights is going to be communicated at the start of field trips/activities etc. If so, how is that requirement being communicated to our leaders/lecturers?
- Bystander Intervention Training planning - to be discussed during January BCCC meeting.
- Vital/Mountaineers BIPOC climb night collab update - Still no word from Becca on the topic of whether the Mountaineers would be interested in participating in the collaboration so we can formally add it to the Mountaineers calendars. AJ to continue to follow up

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

- SPC 2026 Calendar Reservations - Round 1
- Mountaineers Jackets - How many, award guidelines
  - Use Bellingham to prove a concept where a member's progression and accomplishments give them progressing access to certain items.
- Jason Hardrath speaking event - final decision. The (small) group present agrees that this would be interesting and worth the \$250 expense. AJ sent out a survey, depending on the results will decide whether to pursue this further.
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#### **Action Items:**

- Add "Progression Passports" to Feb branch council meeting agenda
- AJ to set up a sub committee meeting with others in our branch to gauge their feelings on the topic of criteria for awarding jackets to our members (e.g. volunteer hours, specific positions, achievements (Sue B award etc), Intermediate course graduations?
- AJ to approach Dana regarding passing the Secretary baton.
- Communications Committee to decide which photo sharing link(s) should be shared on

the newsletter which goes to the general public.

- AJ to continue to follow up with Becca regarding Mountaineers collab with Vital on BIPOC climb night.
- AJ to monitor survey results for Jason Hardrath speaking event and depending on the results will work with Cheryl to decide whether to pursue this further.
- Audrey to add Speaker Series event planning to the volunteer assistance needed list.
- Talk more with Jason about the ask - Leadership Progression Committee (hasn't met in 3 months) what is the future.
- AJ to talk with Cheryl about reaching out to Simon Trautman [simon.trautman@usda.gov](mailto:simon.trautman@usda.gov) at NWAC about a potential speaker series event.