

Everett Branch Council Meeting Minutes



March 12th, 2020 video conference call

Meeting called to order by Chair Elaina Jorgensen at 7:05 pm.

Those in Attendance

Elaina Jorgensen, Jodi Stebbins, Dana Miller, Matt Vadnal, Doris Hatten, Bernadette Lamarca, Liz Dawson, Wes and Jill Thornton, Barry Hershly, Nick Mayo, Nic Tormohlen, Andy Tangsombatvisit

Announcements/Reports

Budget- Elaina. Elaina tried all last year to see the budget. Much of it was not available, but now with Peter Hendrickson on the board, things are getting more transparent. Branch chairs can now get more information at their quarterly meetings. (Next one is June). It appears money was spent last year on appropriate things, (leadership development and upgrades to the PC, (Program Center)), but without a lot of oversight. The deficit is \$800,000, so funds for the Northsound Program Center were canceled. Branch reserves were depleted. To improve the situation, the finance committee will now develop a mission that includes accountability. Elaina is pushing for an extension for spending our branch reserve money until it's been paid back.

Current situation- PUD has closed their meeting rooms due to the virus concerns. Kayak and Navigation classes are canceled. There may be no more revenue coming in for the near future. Program Center staff is having each branch be responsible for some part of operating expenses. Everett, Foothills and Seattle are paying for some maintenance costs of the PC. Elaina found an error of \$11,000 for last year. (Everett was charged 20% instead of 2%), reducing our part from \$13,000 to \$1100. Subsequently, the PC increased our costs elsewhere, so we are still paying the same. The club takes 42% of our revenue. Bottom line is, with the current Covid situation, the budget is not accurate. We need to be very conservative with our spending. No reserving the PC unless it's preapproved, and no food expenses. If Legion Park is already booked it should be fine. Elaina will be the point person for committees cancelling classes and meeting rooms. PUD can keep funds as credit for next year.

Elaina also asked if members need help or supplies at this point. She plans on working in Savannah, Georgia for the next few months, starting next month.

Treasurer- Jodi. Revenue to date is \$111,109.19, expenses \$22,052.85 for fiscal year from October1, 2019 to September 30, 2020. Expenses will definitely decrease as classes are canceled.

Backpacking and Hiking- Nic Tormohlen. Backpacking class lost 3 days at the PUD, still have 2 days at Everett Parks. Club guidelines are now 12 participants or less in a group. 6 students are signed up now. We can look at this as a pilot program, and then reassess later. There is room for 8 students and 4 leaders. There is a need for a meeting room with enough space for people to spread out. Maybe a virtual meeting could work, or renting a room at the PC. Wes suggested the Snohomish Boys and Girls Club.

Backcountry Ski- Barry. All 3 lectures were completed for backcountry ski class. There will an assessment of what worked, etc. Several field trips are scheduled; the small groups should work out with Covid restrictions. Avalanche class is ongoing, and a lot has already happened. This committee's budget is doing well.

Safety- Barry. As far as the Covid situation, it feels better when classes and outings are canceled. If people have concerns about how a class is being run, please let Elaina and Barry know. We cannot disregard official recommendations (Elaina).

Social- Bernadette has reserved Legion Park shelter for the August meeting. She also has room for signups on her hikes.

Membership- Doris will not post anything. Matt- will not schedule open house meetings for now.

Youth- Wes and Jill. There is open membership with 4 members now, and growing interest in the community. Stewardship and Leave No Trace will be the focus for the 1st month. 2nd will be Navigation. The church is reserved for now. There are no expenses coming up and we should break even with costs. Later, permits for backpacking would cost \$.

Lookout and Trail Maintenance- Louis Coglas is reportedly working on Stewardship requirements for climbing.

Kayak- Sea Kayak class had to cancel due to losing the PUD meeting rooms and pool use at Forest Park.

Scrambling- Andy. The Navigation class this weekend is canceled, April 11th class is still scheduled. Other options are- REI has a class, and Seattle has an online class. Scrambling committee has implemented small groups.

Photography- no report

Nordic Ski- Matt. The class is successfully completed.

Wilderness First Aid- Liz. Larger rooms were reserved at the PC to be able to spread out. Classes are scheduled for 3/21 and 3/22, and 4/4 and 4/5. 86 people are signed up. 3/27 are the first scenario practices. More evaluators are needed. The practicals may be difficult, since people will be touching each other. Gloves, masks and goggles would be necessary. Elaina has hand sanitizer to share, and Nic can bring some from Florida. The scenarios may have to wait until later to complete. Liz, Nick, Andy and Elaina will talk about this later.

Climbing- Nick Mayo. Basic class is underway, with 40 students (44 started). Lectures are canceled for the rest of March, and Rock 1 fieldtrip. To substitute, 4 practice sessions are set up, with a limit of 12 people (at the PC). These will start this weekend. It will be outside, but there will be gear being passed around. Are there concerns about touching ropes and gear? It's a risk to consider. Try to touch people as little as possible! Leading on rock starts soon, will have to keep group sizes under 12. It's uncertain what will happen.

Director- Matt. The board of directors is dealing with the Covid issue. The gala on 4/4 is canceled. This was a big fundraiser, brought in **\$500,000 last year. Board is reevaluating.**

Secretary- Dana. Last meeting's minutes will be sent out. Please send corrections so they can be approved. Then they will be posted on the website. Dana reported about a casual conversation with Lorna Cornigan, club president, about the Northsound PC. Lorna encouraged us to find an alternate way to have a center, such as sharing a small building with another group. The board has put support on hold for now. Elaina explained the board would like us to do our own fundraising for a facility, since funds are depleted now.

Upcoming Events-

Potluck at Legion Park- August meeting

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Dana Miller, Secretary