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**December 17, 2018 — Meeting Minutes \*DRAFT\***

**Foothills Branch Council Meeting - December 17, 2018**

**6:30 PM, in-person meeting, Newport Way Library, Bellevue, WA**

**Summary: Action Items and Requests**

* City of Bellevue free meeting room requests….please notify Cheryl Talbert at cascadehiker@earthlink.net
* WFA Course volunteers: need evaluators, patients and “victims”…please follow-up with Nancy Lee at jycnan@gmail.com. Dates listed below.
* WFA Course content: please contact Nancy Lee at [jycnan@gmail.com](mailto:jycnan@gmail.com) before Jan meeting with any ideas or needs.
* Winter Navigation: need someone to help collaborate on course…please follow-up with Jim Heber at gjheber@gmail.com.
* Ski Leadership Course and Ski/Snowboarding Mountaineers Course…Jerry White is looking for someone to take over. Contact Jerry at [jwskis@gmail.com](mailto:jwskis@gmail.com) with interest.
* Patrol Race Sat Feb 23: need volunteers for check-in stations…please contact Patti Polinski at meanysports@me.com. Also need help ski-packing trail on Fri Feb 22.

**Attendance**

Present: Cheryl Talbert (Chair, Chair Hiking/Backpacking), James Henderson (Vice Chair), Paul Thomsen (Safety Officer), Steve LeBrun (At Large № 4, Chair Events), Nancy Lee (chair, First Aid), Carole Olivier (Chair, Leadership), Patti Polinsky (Meany lodge), Samantha Sanders (Chair Trail Running), Tom Harvey (at large council member), Travis Prescott (at large council member and Co-chair, Snowshoeing), Alan Davey (Co-chair Navigation), Jim Heber (Co-chair Navigation), Bob Seana, Kit Eiber, Bonnie Eiber and Brad Peacock. Not Present: Russ Immel (Chair Snowshoe), Chris Soverel (Treasurer), Dick Lambe (Branch Director), Amanda Albright (At Large № 2), Danielle Graham (At Large № 5 and Chair, Nordic Skiing), Jerry White (Chair, Backcountry Skiing), Bill Borom (Chair, Scrambling)

**Issues and Decisions**

**Meeting called to order 6:30 PM.** Agenda approved by acclamation with no objections

**Council Vote on Navigation Committee Chairs**

* Hard-copy statement of interest distributed for Jim Heber and Alan Davey as Co-Chairs
* Discussion and vote without Jim and Alan present

**Motion: Vote on Jim Heber as Navigation Committee Co-Chair.**

**Vote: Motion approved unanimously with quorum to approve Jim Heber as Navigation Co-Chair.**

**Motion: Vote on Alan Davey as Navigation Committee Co-Chair.**

**Vote: Motion approved unanimously with quorum to approve Alan Davey as Navigation Co-Chair.**

**Ongoing Business**

* **Eastside Program Discussion:** Cheryl, Bill and James leading up effort for Eastside Gathering Space (including Climbing Class venue). Board of Directors have established a committee and guidelines, and intend to circle back in Jan. Options mentioned include leasing and/or partnering with:
  + City of Bellevue
  + City of Issaquah
  + Bellevue College
* **City of Bellevue TRACKS partnership:** Cheryl reviewed our partnership with the City of Bellevue and reviewed ways that we can support the city’s programs. Have already been partnering on large events like film festivals; now discussing a Meany Lodge family snowshoe weekend as well as adult hiking programs, and interested in more possibilities! They offer partner benefits including promotion of our programs to city residents and free usage of city of Bellevue facilities when not in use by the city.
* **Meeting with Tom Vogel:** CEO of the Mountaineers will host our council for dinner on March 26. Location to be determined.
* **Committee Updates:**
  + **WFA:** Nancy Lee -3 classes for 2019 at Swedish Medical Center: Apr 6-7, Jun 22-23, Sep 7-8. Scenario class: Tues Sep 10. Nancy is requesting volunteers as evaluators and patients/victims.Considering opening up first 2 weeks of registration for Foothills snowshoers and scramblers. Also, please forward any ideas or thoughts to Nancy as far in advance as possible to best optimize volunteer time.
  + **Navigation:** Jim Heber and Alan Davey
    - Overall: one thrust of committee is to map out how one course leads to another. Also, Mountaineers seem to be moving to combine classical navigation and digital navigation.
    - “Wilderness Navigation”: Alan - looking to replicate Seattle template. Enough need and will help relieve Seattle wait list. Will include new curriculum such as e-learning and GPS. Goal is to be on I-90 corridor with courses in Spring and Fall.
    - “Winter Navigation”: Jim requesting someone to help collaborate on this course.
    - “Digital Trip Planning”: Travis – two sessions planned for Winter and 3-Season. Pre-rep component to cover basics.
    - “GPS Training”: is there a need in addition to Wilderness Navigation?
  + **Meany Lodge:** Patti Polinsky
    - Lodge open Dec 27 – Jan 1. Early fireworks at 8:30 for kids; 2nd showing at midnight for adults.
    - Trek Lunch: every Sat at 8:30
    - Patrol Race: Sat Feb 23. Requesting help for check-in stations…can take volunteers out on snowmobile or can walk out on snowshoes. Also requesting volunteers on Fri Feb 22 to ski-pack the trail – workload will be divided into two halves. Please contact Patty or Nigel.
    - Lift-Assisted Backcountry Skiing: Class on Sat (with optional Sat overnight and Sun ski with Art).
  + **Ski:**  Jerry White
    - Ski Lessons start in Jan in collaboration with Snoqualmie
    - “Glacier/Crevasse Rescue”: enrollment proceeding fine
    - “Ski Leadership” & “Ski/Snowboarding Mountaineering”: looking for someone to take leadership of these courses
  + **Trail Running:** Sam Sanders
    - “Snowshoe Racing”: Winter trail running series - $60 including rentals.
    - “Introduction to Front Running”: Transitioning to crush🡪5K movement. Demand for non-runners and prior runners.
    - “Backcountry Trail Running”: look to launch course after standards developed
  + **Hiking/Backpacking:** Cheryl Talbert
    - “Backpacking Building Blocks”:in 7th year and will be posted in Jan
  + **Events:** Steve LeBrun
    - Backcountry Film Festival in Jan
    - Appalachian Trail Film Night in Feb
    - “Meet the Foothills Branch”: TBD springtime
  + **Branch:** Cheryl – no dates yet for 2020 budget. As usual, revenue budgets due in Mar and expense budgets due in Apr. Will forward exact due dates once released.

**New Business**

* **Navigation Education needs:**
  + Alan - What will add value to Foothills? Pulling in content from Seattle, but doesn’t necessarily fit exactly with needs of Foothills (e.g. Foothills has more winter events). One goal could be to offload navigation requirements from committees, so they don’t need to build stand-alone content. How can Navigation help your folks get what they need for safe outdoor travel?
  + Jim – put together Mission on providing navigational needs. Bring varying people together in organized classes in collaboration with committee chairs.
  + Cheryl – Hiking and Backpacking: “Staying Found” for hikers who don’t often go off-trail. Would be helpful to have “GPS Training” for hikers.
  + Jerry – Backcountry Skiing: greatest application for Ski/Snowboarding Mountaineering Course. No trails, so need wilderness experience. A possibility could be to split Navigation into separate requirements. Jim Heber notes that the classes he provides in his home to catch up students on Wilderness Navigation aren’t optimal. May be better to have Wilderness Navigation, followed by Winter Navigation.
  + Sam – Trail Running Committee: Winter Trail Running, which could pair up with Nordic Skiing. Front-country Trail Running pairs well with Hiking/Backpacking. Fastpacking (running & backpacking) will need Backcountry standards…how to figure out when something goes wrong. Scrumbles (Trail Running and Scrambling) may tie into Scrambling navigation.
  + Scrambling requires Wilderness Navigation
  + Travis for Snowshoeing Committee: Intermediate Snowshoe students take Wilderness Navigation; leaders take both Wilderness and Winter Navigation. All students would benefit from Winter Navigation. Opportunity for “Basic Snow Travel”…a “Staying Found” in the snow. Regardless of initial training, demand for Map & Compass Training, which could be offered t less than the typical $80.
  + Jim – wondering if Trail Runners and Nordic could use GPS Navigation?
* **Outdoor Leadership Education:** Carole Olivier – looking at key learnings, content for future seminars. Prior focus has been on new leaders – is there a need for existing leaders?
  + Content: Borrowed heavily from Scramble Leader Course. Goal is course that every leader can take, regardless of activity. This year’s ran full day covering 9 topics. Key learnings:
    - Abundance of content…perhaps too many for one day.
    - Good feedback on activities that were part of seminar
    - Heavy on didactic lectures, which cut into activity time due to time pressures
  + 2019 Objective: Participants leave with clear understanding of themselves as leaders, including how to choose to communicate and how to handle conflict.
    - More strategic approach to topics covered
    - Greater activity-centric approach
    - Utilize profile testing-tool, such as completing communications survey to be used in the course.
    - Opportunity for reflection and to identify own key learnings. Create a plan of action for moving forward.
    - Finish course knowing where you started, what you’ve learned, and some action items for leading first trip/activity.
  + Committee Survey: Unofficial Topic Vote for upcoming Outdoor Leadership Education. Carol will put content into survey form, differentiate between new and existing leaders, and send out.
    - For New Leaders: (\* designates priority)
      * \*Risk Assessment\* and Crisis Management – 14 votes
      * Decision Making Skills – 13
      * \*Setting Expectations\* & Communications Styles/Sharing Feedback – 12
      * Conflict Management – 10
      * Expedition Behavior & Managing Group Dynamics – 8
      * Leadership Styles & Behaviors – 7
      * Learning Styles & Adult Instructional Skills – 3
      * Diversity, Inclusion & Micro Aggressions – 2
    - For Existing Leaders – was not able to capture results
    - Brad – important to not consistently exclude topics that are deemed as less critical, or branch will have a greater likelihood of being weak in these areas.
    - Cheryl – As a branch, how do we want to advance the leadership capabilities of our leaders?
* First Aid Committee: Nancy Lee
  + WFA: Exploring advanced applications, since big gap between WFA and Wilderness First Responder Class. Is it possible to help bridge this gap with intermediate and advanced level content? What about a Winter First Aid Course? …or convening a First-Aid Summit with other branches?
  + Cheryl: possible to do targeted clinics?
  + Nancy: What outdoors expertise do we have within the branch? Please let Nancy know if you know of someone who would like to teach.
  + Is there a need for a First-Aid newsletter?
  + How do we build more robust curriculum for scenarios? Should we ramp up the difficulty of each scenario?
  + Is there interest in a Satellite-Communicator Clinic?
  + Nancy scheduling Jan meeting on improving course content…if possible please submit ideas before then.
* Meeting Adjourned at 8:45PM

Submitted by member Brad Peacock January 1, 2019