**Sept 3, 2019 — Meeting Minutes**

**Foothills Branch Council Meeting – September 3, 2019**

**6:30 PM, in-person meeting, Issaquah Town Hall Eagle Room, 130 E Sunset Way, Issaquah, WA 98027**

**Those in Attendance**

Present: Cheryl Talbert (Chair, Chair Hiking/Backpacking); Cynthia Biles (Member) ; Noelle Dwarzski (Branch Member); Bonnie Eiber (Chair Avy Course); Kit Eiber (Chair Glacier Rescue Course); John Gilbert (Branch Member), Danielle Graham (Council Member at Large, Chair Nordic Skiing); Lori Heath (Acting Secretary); Jim Heber (Co-Chair Navigation); James Henderson (Vice Chair); Richard Lambe (Branch Director); Steve LeBrun (Council Member at Large, Events Chair); Brad Peacock (Council Support); Patti Polinski (Chair Meany Lodge); Travis Prescott (Council Member at Large); Bob Deana (Branch Member); Chris Soverel (Treasurer); Frances Troje (Past Chair)

**Issues and Decisions**

* Meeting called to order by Cheryl Talbert at 6:35
* Cheryl introduced Lori Heath as acting Branch Secretary
* The Council voted for approval of Travis Prescott as Chair of the Snowshoe Committee

**Ongoing Business**

* . Gathering Space Partnership Update – Cheryl
  + City of Bellevue will provide rent free space in turn for revenue sharing on events. The city requests that we offer more free classes for Bellevue residents, particularly for beginners, to offset lost room revenue.
  + A special long-term partnership with the South Bellevue Community Center may not happen. They are asking for a revenue sharing relationship and are not confident they have space to meet our needs. However, SBCC is still an option for our fee-based classes and we can submit the requests through the standard advance reservation process with the City of Bellevue.
  + Cheryl has an upcoming meeting with management of Vasa Park Resort near Lake Sammamish regarding the possibility of partnering on facility use.
  + Camp Terry (Greater Seattle YMCA) off I90 in Preston should be built out by late 2020 and they are eager to collaborate with us.
* Eastside Program Center – James Henderson
  + Looking for potential properties to lease that meet requirements for program center.
  + Will then build budget based on potential properties and bring it back to Board
* Branch Election Update – Cheryl
  + Review of Elections calendar
    - Elections begin on October 1 and run until October 21.
    - All active members and children over age 14 are eligible to vote.
    - Members will receive an electronic ballot on October 1 through Survey Gizmo.
    - Will be notified of results 25
  + Open positions
    - Secretary: Cheryl Talbert proposed Lori Heath as Acting Secretary pending the outcome of Branch elections in October. Danielle Graham put the motion forward. James Henderson seconded the motion, it was approved by the Council
    - Treasurer: Cheryl Talbert proposed Shyam Vijayaraghavan as Acting Treasurer pending the outcome of Branch elections in October. Chris Soverel put the motion forward, Steve LeBrun seconded the motion and it was approved by the Council
* Committee updates:
  + Events (Steve LeBrun): Upcoming events include the Mountainfilm World Tour on Sept 28, Foothills Branch Volunteer Banquet on Oct 8, and Heather Anderson talk on Overcoming Fear on the Pacific Trail on Oct 14. The Backcountry Film Festival has not been scheduled yet; probably in December/January time frame.
  + Backcountry skiing (Kit Eiber): Several backcountry skiing activities have been scheduled from October through March. A new Glacier Skiing/Snowboarding and Crevasse course will start in April.
  + Snow Shoeing (Travis Prescott): Three courses are posted Basic Snowshoeing (November through February), Intermediate Snowshoeing (January through April), and Winter Camping (February through April)
  + Scrambling (Danielle Graham for Bill Borom): Compressed Alpine Scrambling course posted, opens for registration in November. Basic Navigation and Wilderness First Aid are required for graduation
  + Cross country skiing (Danielle Graham): Ski waxing clinic in November at the Tacoma club house has been posted; 3 weekend events are planned but have not been posted yet.
  + Navigation (Jim Heber): 89 students signed up for the Wilderness Navigation class, but we still need instructors for it. Planning 2 winter navigation classes. Will be 2 instructor workshops in Sept/Oct.
  + Meaney Lodge (Patti Polinski): Mushroom weekend is October 11-13. There will be an Introduction to Backcountry skiing course at the lodge every Saturday in January and February except President’s weekend.
  + Hiking/Backpacking (Cheryl): The Foothills Branch has posted >25% of the hikes offered by Mountaineers this fall, but we would like to see more backpacking trips. Tom Harvey is collaborating with the Olympia Branch on a Family Hiking Program and is looking for people to help.
* Board of Directors update (Dick Lambe)
  + Last Board of Directors meeting was held on Aug 22. We have a deficit of ~$300K, mainly due to limited income generation, particularly from books. Books and programs ran a deficit. Course revenues came in less than planned, but facilities /outdoor centers did well. David Guterson, author of “Snow Falling on Cedars” has recently published book of with Mountaineers which will probably sell well. The book, entitled “Turn around Time” is a narrative poem and hiking and trails in the Pacific Northwest. The Boards hopes to hire Advocacy Engagement Manager for a 3-year position, with emphasis on advocacy for wild spaces.
* Treasurer Update (Chris)
  + 2020 budget turned in but not officially approved yet by Board. Foothills Branch met the budget targets.
  + Doing well against plan 2019 plan

**New Business**

* Jim Heber would like some discussion of safety for upcoming meeting. Will meet with Paul Thomsen (Safety Officer) on this
* 2019 volunteer recognition - Cheryl
  + Cheryl gave overview of current recognition process
    - Started in 2017
    - Monetary recognition for contributions of volunteers
    - Common scoring system for use across the Foothills Branch
    - Points assigned for trips/classes, etc, data pulled from Mountaineers database
    - Volunteer given certain number of dollars for each point that are awarded as gift cards with personal thank you card from the Committee Chair
    - There is also verbal recognition at annual banquet
    - Each committee chair should review the scoring sheet recently sent by Cheryl and send changes to Cheryl by Sept 18
  + Explored ways to see how volunteers like to be recognized. Ideas included:
    - Survey of volunteers to see if the gift card recognition is motivating.
    - Allow volunteers to donate the gift card anonymously
    - Provide option to indicate interest in receiving award when registering to volunteer for event.
    - Ask how people like to be recognized on volunteer form
* Branch Leadership Succession – Brad
  + Forming Leadership Succession Committee to
    - Develop strategic approach to finding and training volunteers
    - operationalize volunteering, particularly for smaller time commitments
    - help identify future candidate for leadership roles and give people experience for those roles.
    - Provide guidance on training and mentorship
  + Branch Council members interested in helping to define this committee should contact Brad
  + Brad to present draft charter at next committee meeting.
* Foothills Mountaineers Facebook page (Cheryl/Lori)
  + Good forum to promote events
  + Can also be used to publicize branch and post interesting stories about volunteers and/or initiatives
  + Anyone with admin privileges can add something.
  + In addition, each committee has a Facebook group where they can post tactical stuff for committee members

**Announcements and Recognition**

* Announcements
  + Foothills Branch Social and Volunteer Recognition Banquet on Tuesday, October 8 at South Bellevue Community Center (<https://www.mountaineers.org/locations-lodges/foothills-branch/events/foothills-branch-annual-social-and-volunteer-recognition-banquet-1>)
  + Next Branch Council meeting is Tuesday, November 5 at the Issaquah City Hall Eagle room
  + The Mountaineers Leadership Conference is on Saturday, December 7. Registration is open now. Active leaders can attend for free with discount code LC19FOOTHILLS. (<https://www.mountaineers.org/locations-lodges/seattle-program-center/events/mountaineers-leadership-conference-2>).
* Recognition
  + Travis recognized Steve for taking over snow shoeing
  + Cheryl recognized Brad for writing descriptions for each Branch Officer role
  + Cheryl recognized Kit for taking on leadership of the Backcountry Skiing committee

**Summary: Action Items and Requests**

* + Bring ideas for Bellevue Community Center classes that can be opened for free to Bellevue residents to Cheryl or to next Branch Council meeting
  + Think of possible uses for Camp Terry for discussion at next meeting or send ideas to Cheryl
  + Send ideas for other facilities partnership opportunities to Cheryl
  + Alan Davey to let Branch Council know about instructor needs for the Navigation Class.
  + All Committee Chairs to submit re-imbursement requests for 2019 to Chris by end of September
  + Jim Heber and Paul Thomsen to meet regarding safety agenda topic at an upcoming Branch Council meeting.
  + Each committee chair should review the volunteer scoring sheet recently sent by Cheryl and send changes to Cheryl by Sept 18.
  + Branch Council members interested in helping to define this committee should contact Brad
  + Brad to present draft charter of Leadership Succession Committee at next committee meeting.
  + All Committee Chairs to send their volunteers a personal invitation to the Foothills Branch Volunteer Recognition Banquet on October 8

Submitted by Acting Foothills Secretary Lori Heath on September 18, 2019