**Foothills Branch Council Meeting June 16, 2020 – 7:00-9:00PM**

**Zoom Video Conference**

# Attendees: Deloa Dalby (Conservation Chair), Kit Eiber (Back Country Ski Chair), Danielle Graham (At Large Member, Nordic Ski Chair), Lori Heath (Branch Secretary), Jim Heber (avigation Co-chair), James Henderson (Former Vice Chair, Board Representative Candidate), Dick Lambe (Board Representative), Steve LeBrun (Events Chair), Ben Morse (Chair Elect Candidate), Travis Prescott (Snow Shoe Chair), Samantha Sanders (Trail Running Chair), Cheryl Talbert (Branch Chair), Nancy Temkin (At Large Candidate), Paul Thomsen (First Aid Chair, Safety Officer); Peter Tran (Climbing Committee Chair), Shyam Vijayaraghavan (Branch Treasurer).

**Introductions, Call to order** (Cheryl- 7:00 PM)

* Agenda approved by Branch Council (Dick Lambe made motion to approve the agenda, Travis Prescott seconded the motion; Branch Council approved)
* Thank you’s (Danielle Graham)
  + Amanda Virbitsky and Tim Bugler from The Mountaineers staff will be leaving. The Branch Council thanks them for their service.

**Ongoing Business (followups on prior council decisions/discussions)**(7:15 PM)

* Committee status reports
  + Jim Heber (Navigation): working on Staying Found course
  + Steve LeBrun (Events): considering online alternative to film festivals (back country and mountain) because COVID-19 attendance restrictions would prevent us from selling enough tickets to make money with live screenings; Not planning a picnic this year due to COVID-19 restrictions; waiting for COVID-19 restrictions to ease before planning other activities
  + Peter Tran (Climbing): Have been holding monthly virtual meetings with Climbing Committee; still planning to proceed with 2021, lectures will be online with small-group field trips; climbing activities have resumed for small groups
  + Sam Sanders (Trail Running): Backcountry and conditioning trail running courses have been cancelled due to COVID-19; Front Country class just started; a small group trip for trip 2nd week in July is still scheduled; have been holding occasional virtual happy hours
  + Danielle (Nordic Skiing): not much going on with Nordic skiing right now; was thinking about working with summit at Snoqualmie on lessons but things are too much in flux due to COVID-19; may do another waxing clinic
  + Kit (Back Country Skiing): this is a slow time of year for back country skiing. Ski and snowboard mountaineering course resuming; backcountry skiing course discontinued
  + Deloa (Conservation): Conservation programs due to COVID-19 restrictions; Mountains to Sound Greenway staff crews are back out again and we will look and their metrics; Not sure when we’ll be able to resume stewardship events, a lot depends on funding which is short right now.
  + Paul (Safety): All quiet on the safety front because there have not been any in-person activities recently; Working out details on which first aid activities we can offer; Had a B3 backpacking trip weekend of June 13
  + Cheryl (Backpacking and Hiking): Hiking activities are starting again; GoHike was postponed until Spring 2021, most of the students and all the leaders plan to participate in 2021; Backpacking virtual seminars are complete; B3 mentor groups met had virtual meetings at least bi-weekly; B3 trips are going again. Some B3 trips every weekend through July and a few in September.
  + Lori (Communications): Planning July newsletter.
  + Dick (Mountaineers Board): Mountaineers gala on July 23 will be virtual; Mountaineers received PPE money which helps cash flow; Mountainers applying for a low interest 30-year loan; Some Mountaineers staff furloughs in July but no additional lay-offs; Mountaineers Adventure Club (MAC) trip next week, MAC summer camp moved to Leavenworth.
  + Travis (Snow Shoeing): Snow shoe season ended before COVID-19 could have an impact; digital navigation on-line class completes June 17 with over 100 students; Concern that carpooling restrictions due to COVID-19 could complicate snow shoeing activities if the restrictions are still in effect.
  + Shyam (Treasurer): Working on budget (see below).
* 2021 budget rollup – followups, any major downside risks and sensitivities (Shyam – 15 mins)
  + Presented foothills 2021 budget and revenue spreadsheet:  
    https://3.basecamp.com/3528906/buckets/15009148/vaults/2463363420
  + Significant drop in expenses
  + Please go back over budgets with more conservative view on course capacity
  + Next steps:
    - Verify expenses
    - Review budgets with more conservative estimates of expected students for classes/courses
* Branch leadership succession planning (Cheryl – 30 mins)
  + Introduced Ben Morse chair elect candidate to start nov 2020, chair nov 2021
    - Danielle Graham made motion to consider Ben as Chair-elect candidate, Steve LeBrun seconded the motion
    - Branch Council voted to put Ben Morse on ballot as Chair-elect candidate
  + Nancy Temkin (at large council member candidate)
    - Lori Heath made motion to consider Nancy as a candidate for At Large Branch Council member; Dick Lambe seconded the motion
    - Branch Council voted in favor of putting Nancy Temkin on ballot as the At Large Branch Council member candidate
  + James Henderson, candidate for Board Representative
    - Dick made motion to consider James as a candidate for Branch Board Representative; Lori Heath seconded
    - Branch Council voted in favor of putting James Henderson on the ballot as the Branch Board Representative candidate
  + Alan Davey, candidate for chair starting Nov 2020
    - Jim Heber made motion to consider Alan as candidate for Branch Chair; Dick Lambe seconded
    - Branch Council voted in favor of to putting Alan Davey on ballot as the Branch chair candidate
* Upcoming council meetings: Agree on dates for the coming year, and virtual vs. in-person
  + Lori and Cheryl discussed off-line.
  + Will propose Branch Council meetings the first Tuesday of every other month from September 2020 through June 2021. The September 2020 meeting will be held via zoom. Once COVID-19 restrictions ease for group gatherings, meetings will alternate between live and zoom. Lori will try to book Issaquah City Hall Eagle room for the live meetings.

**Announcements:**

* Upcoming Cross-Branch Activity Summits:
* Oct 25, 2020 - [Climbing](https://www.mountaineers.org/locations-lodges/tacoma-program-center/events/2020-fall-climbing-summit)
* Nov 14, 2020 - [Scrambling](https://www.mountaineers.org/locations-lodges/tacoma-program-center/events/2020-scramble-summit)
* Jan 9, 2021 -  [Hiking/Backpacking](https://www.mountaineers.org/locations-lodges/seattle-program-center/events/2021-hiking-and-backpacking-summit)

**Action Items**

* Verify expenses in 2021 branch budget
* Review 2021 branch budget with more conservative estimate of expected students for classes/courses

**Adjourned 9:00 PM**