

**January 2019 — Meeting Minutes \*DRAFT\***

**Foothills Branch Council Meeting - January 29, 2019**

**6:30 PM, in-person meeting, Redmond Library, Redmond, WA 98052**

**Summary: Action Items and Requests**

**⦁ Financial Mid-Flight reviews. All committees are asked to review YTD financials and note anything materially above or below plan. Must respond back to Chris Soverel by Feb 8th, 2019**

**⦁ Foothills Branch Newsletter: Ideas or content is needed for the next branch newsletter. Please get your submissions in to Steve LeBrun**

**⦁ WFA Course volunteers: need evaluators, patients and “victims”…please follow-up with Nancy Lee at jycnan@gmail.com. Dates listed below.**

**⦁ Events Committee needs volunteers.. please see Steve LeBrun**

**⦁ Navigation: Need volunteer leaders to support two students in Spring 2019 course offering. Need to hear from any committee what the desires support from Nav to fulfill badge requirements…please follow-up with Alan@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 with interest.**

**⦁ Meany Lodge: 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.**

**⦁ Outdoor Fitness scheduled for September 27th, 28th and 29th is in need to teach a variety of sessions from Yoga to Nutrition and many more topics**

**Attendance**

Present: James Henderson (Vice Chair),Russ Immel (Chair, Snowshoing), Chris Soverel (Treasurer), Steve LeBrun (At Large № 4, Chair Events), Patti Polinsky (Meany lodge), Samantha Sanders (Chair Trail Running), Tom Harvey (at large council member), Travis Prescott (at large council member), Alan Davey (Co-chair Navigation), Jim Heber (Co-chair Navigation), Bob Seana, Kit Eiber (Chair Elect BC Ski committee), Bill Borom (Chair, Scrambling), Deloa Dalby, Fran Troje (Past Chair). Not Present: Cheryl Talbert (Chair, Chair Hiking/Backpacking), Paul Thomsen (Safety Officer Dick Lambe (Branch Director),Nancy Lee (chair, First Aid), Carole Olivier (Outdoor leadership course lead), Danielle Graham (At Large № 5 and Chair, Nordic Skiing), Jerry White (Chair, Backcountry Skiing).

**Issues and Decisions**

**Meeting called to order 6:38 PM. Agenda approved by acclamation with no objections. December 7, 2018 were presented and approved by acclamation with no additions or corrections**

**Ongoing Business**

**⦁ Eastside Program Discussion:** James reported that little has changed since last meeting. James and Cheryl are preparing for a meeting set for Feb 5th 2019, seeking clarity and next steps in the selection criteria from Board of Directors. James shared additional consideration is being given to the securing property for the purpose of scrambling/ rock climbing that potential could include sleeping quarters. Board asked each center to justify how such a place would support the 2022 Vision Statement. Patti asked why we would pursue such property when we have closed a failed property in Wentachee. What would be different with this location?

**⦁ Meeting with Tom Vogel:** CEO of the Mountaineers will host our council for dinner on March 26. Location to be determined.

**Committee Updates:**

**⦁ WFA:** No report

**⦁ Snowshoeing: Russ Immel,** Course Basic Snowshoeing filled at 90 students, < 20% drop out, which is very good. Back Country Snowshoeing set at 18 students matching LY enrollment

**⦁ Navigation: Jim Heber and Alan Davey**

**⦁ “Wilderness Navigation”:** Alan - looking to replicate Seattle template in the Spring 2019 offering. Looking for assistant leaders. Goal to have one leader for every two (2) students ( that means 16-18 volunteers are needed). Volunteers will be given a refresher session prior to course event. Fall 2019 offering will include new curriculum such as e-learning and GPS additional to current course offering. IMPORTANT, the new location, Raging River is pending DNR approval

⦁ Need to hear from any committee who the desires support from Nav to fulfill badge requirements. When, type, and how many students. Alan is willing to help in anyway but needs to know what demands of his resources are needed.

⦁ “Winter Navigation”: Jim is willing to offer additional sessions if there is a demand for it.

**⦁ “Digital Trip Planning”: Travis –** Looking for volunteers to test and provide feedback on a Beta Digital Navigation and Trip Planning.

**⦁ Meany Lodge: Patti Polinsky**

**⦁** Recommends the purchase on a vehicle that could transport groups to the lodge, reduce multiple vehicles each requiring snow chains and Sno-park permits

⦁ Feb 9th Valentine Party with MANY prizes.

⦁ 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.

⦁ 2nd weekend in March Spring Carnival

**⦁ BC Ski: Kit Eiber:** AIRE I has successfully wrapped up. Glacier Travel course has full enrollment. Monday Feb 4th the lottery for meeting space at Seattle Program Center will take place.

**⦁ Trail Running: Sam Sanders**

**⦁** Goal for February is to Define Standards to each level 1)Front Country and 2) Backcountry Trail Running. With better clarity of the offering students enrolling will have a better understanding of the course goals and expectations. Understanding and how to manage risk at each level is a high priority

⦁ Winter Trail Run was cancelled due to lack of enrollment

⦁ “Backcountry Trail Running”: will lead to awarding a Badge

⦁ Outdoor Fitness Program scheduled for Sept 27, 28th and 29th. Session topics to include Physical Therapy, Yoga, Nutrition, Fitness Plan, Navigation, Foraging food in the forest. Looking for volunteers to teach the session.

**⦁ Hiking/Backpacking: Cheryl Talbert & Tom Harvey**

**⦁ “Backpacking Building Blocks”:** B3 course has a full slate of volunteers (several from last years crop of graduates), our new "practice camp" was scouted and is ready to go, we got volunteers offering new early-season conditioning hikes for students, and the roster is 60% full in the first 2 weeks of registration. We'd love to have more volunteers for our third year of the Backpacking with Kids course - time commitment includes helping with an overnight practice camp in July and leading one or more backpacking trips with families over the summer. Please contact Cheryl if interested!

**⦁** Advanced One new Hike Leader and waiting on four (4) New Leaders to complete their mentor hike. Winter Condition hikes are widely available and well attended.

⦁ Hike/ Backpack Summit cross branch took place Jan 11th. Extensive discussion on: Consistency in verbiage on Leadership Standards, Leader Education, Communication and Engagement, Inclusiveness and How to Handle inactive Leaders. Look for a new trail description to be added to the current, Easy-Moderate-Strenuous levels. "Casual" will be offer in the hopes to appeal to the individual who maybe new, lacks confidence or perhaps recovering from surgery and needs a less intense outdoor experience.

**⦁ Events: Steve LeBrun**

⦁ Appalachian Trail Film Night on Feb 13th is selling very well.

⦁ “Meet the Foothills Branch”: TBD springtime. Is there a need for it?

**⦁ Scrambling: Bill Borom** Scrambling Course full at 18 students and there 11 on wait list. Needs volunteer help. Need to evaluate Foothill cost compared to Seattle's cost. Seattle course includes time at Meany lodge and Foothills does not.

**⦁ Nordic Skiing Committee: Danielle Graham**

Regarding the budget documents: When we started the Foothills Nordic Committee, the idea was that we would not compete with Seattle (with many of our leaders overlapping) and Everett instructions and courses. Instead, we would compliment their efforts by training leaders to offer trips and to offer more trips for the students graduating from other branch's courses. As we are not offering courses, we are not bringing in money. On the flip side, we are not spending money! I've spoken with some of my key volunteers about ways that we could raise some funds to offer thank you gifts to volunteers, and they all responded that they would all prefer to receive a thank you note. So, we plan to continue on, not spending and not earning.

One note to add: this weekend, Chris Ensor, Linda Shewey, Steve LeBrun, and Cheri Solien successfully put together a first-time Mountaineers Winter Weekend in Spokane, offering 5 ski trips and 2 snowshoe trips. I have heard great things about the weekend, and I'm very proud that Cheri was the first leader to come out of the Nordic Ski Leader course in December. Kudos to these 4 volunteers!

**⦁ Outdoor Leadership: presented by Jim Henderson on behalf Carole Oliver:** Be on the lookout for a survey to help identify topics used to develop a 1-2 hour seminar.

**New Business**

**⦁ Financials and Treasurer Report:** Chris Soverel- “Please review the FY 2019 first quarter (Q1) financials for our branch by activity. Unfortunately, the actuals are booked differently than the budget that was loaded into the accounting system, so the reports are less meaningful regarding our performance than they could be. In the past actual revenue was booked when the people paid for the course. The club took the revenue budgets that we submitted (which showed revenue in the month the course began) and ‘spread’ it to try and account for how accounting booked the revenue (when people paid). This was good and would have produced more meaningful reports. But then, accounting changed the way it books revenue and now books it when the course begins. So the budget and actual are now not aligned again. If we looked at actual revenue on this report and compared it to the budget workbook revenue that is a meaningful review. I have asked the Club to reload the budgets using the budget workbooks, which would make the reports more meaningful, but I don’t know if they will do it or not.”

⦁ Financial Mid-Flight reviews. All committees are asked to review YTD financials and note anything materially above or below plan. Must respond back to Chris Soverel by Feb 8th, 2019

⦁ Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Planning begins in March 2019 allowing 6 to 8 weeks of developing and conversation.

**⦁ James Henderson led a brainstorm discussion on how our Foothills Branch can support the Vision 2022 focus areas:** Here are excerpts of the discussion. Great detail is submitted by James:

 We frequently have to outsource training such as First Aid, Avalanche Training. Can we conduct meetings by way of video conferencing. There is a need to promote the benefits of Leadership, perhaps a Leader Benefit Package. Better ways to advertise. The Mountaineer brand does not represent all that the club offers. We should explore another club name that be more inclusive, such as Outdoor Recreation Club Affiliates (ORCA) subtitle, Managed by the Mountaineers. How can we get the best out of the current website. There is large range of knowledge from weak to proficient even at the council level. Current Leaders maybe proficient and skilled at their chosen activity but are not as gifted writers or advertiser of their activity. How do we reach a larger segment of diverse population within our jurisdiction? We need to proactively recruit minorities to serve at the council level.

**⦁ Next Meeting is Scheduled for March 19th, at Eagle Room, Issaquah City Hall**

**⦁ Meeting Adjourned at 8:45PM**

 **Submitted by Council Member at Large, Tom Harvey, February 1, 2019**