**Minutes of May 21, 2015 Kitsap Branch Council Meeting**

The Kitsap Mountaineers Branch Council Meeting was convened on Thursday, May 21, 2015 at 5:40 PM at the Kitsap Cabin with Vice-Chair Sue Labrie presiding. Also present were Dianne Carey (Branch Treasurer), David Burton (At Large Board Member), Mark Thibault (Trailrunning Committee Chair & Website), Vern Brown (Branch Director & Kayak Committee Chair), Linda Carnahan (Climbing Committee Chair) and Christine Grenier (Hiking Committee Chair).

Agenda

* Dianne Carey provided an update on the branch’s fiscal status which showed that revenues definitely outpaced expenses with most of the revenue coming from the Climbing program. She also plans to meeting with Mountaineers finance staff this summer to review the new software and hoped that a prospective new Treasurer could join that discussion. Lastly, Dianne requested that any remaining 2015-2016 budget proposals for each activity committee be submitted to Branch Chair Jeff Schrepple during her absence starting next week.
* Committee Members briefly discussed the prior meeting’s business. Motion to approve the March 19 Meeting Minutes as presented was made by David Burton and seconded by Dianne Carey. Motion carried unanimously.
* Other business briefly discussed included the need to continually advertise for Branch Treasurer and Safety Officer with the expectation to transition those volunteers in before the annual branch meeting in the fall.

Activity Committee Reports

* Vern Brown reported that the Basic Kayak class is nearly completed with paddle trips remaining; and that the Coastal Clean-Up was very successful with over 20 attendees. The next clean-up is scheduled in September.
* Linda Carnahan announced that the Climbing program is underway with the Crevasse Rescue fieldtrip coming up at Kitsap Memorial State Park in preparation for upcoming fieldtrips. She added that she anticipated about 20 students for the Basic Climb course next year.
* Mark Thibault anticipated some trail runs to be added for the summer schedule.
* David Burton asked for feedback on whether or not to proceed with a Photography/Art committee, program, classes and outings. Following a lengthy discussion, committee members chose to keep the current Photography/Art committee in place, but not to set up courses. There is not enough volunteer support for a program of classes and historically, there is not enough interest to support a full-fledged program. However, there was consensus to list trips that include painting or photography to determine if there is renewed interest and if so, then this issue could be revisited. There was interest in bringing back the photography contest and art show as part of the annual meeting or during an open house assuming there is adequate volunteer support.
* Christine Grenier reported that the destinations update is almost complete; is working with potential leaders to get them through the training process; is posting leader resources on the website; anticipated a future Hike Chair Summit to be scheduled as a follow-up to this winter’s meeting; asked for prospective volunteers for the Introduction to Hiking Workshop on May 27 with an easy hike on May 30; and also plans on going on an artist trip to Bloedel Reserve with David and Sue and a recon trip to Squamish, BC with David, Sue and Linda in anticipation of future trips.

Old Business

Sue Labrie shared a PowerPoint presentation from the 3-Year Board Retreat which included:

* Mountaineers “Vision 2017” Plan
* Membership and Attendance statistics from 2014 to 2015
* Financial Status as of September 30, 2014
* Current resources and focus on e-learning, leader development, and modernizing club offerings

Other points discussed at the retreat included how to retain branch identity, potential costs of proposed changes, e-learning, and possible module approach to courses. Details of implementation were not covered. Sue agreed to share the presentation since it included a lot of material and statistics.

New Business

Mark Thibault provided a demonstration of potential changes to the branch portion of the website which included

* a “less buried” approach to how committee material is posted
* pages could be more interactive
* more available tools to build or add pages for those who have administrative permissions
* more direct link between page and sign-ups

Vern Brown explained that Seattle and Olympia branches have Naturalist committees and programs and suggested that Kitsap create an activity since there is enough leader support and membership interest to support activities. He agreed to participate in an administrative lead role. There are a few qualified leaders in place to list activities. There will be a need to establish instructors for classes but between the club’s resources and local conservation partnerships this should be easy to achieve.

Motion to form a Naturalist Committee was made by Vern Brown and seconded by Linda Carnahan. Motion carried unanimously.

Sue Labrie announced that there is an opportunity to be part of a free booth at Outdoorman’s Day on August 1, at the Burley Bible Church in Port Orchard. This event will be included in future newsletters.

Next ExComm Meeting will be held on Thursday, September 17 at 5:30PM with location to be announced.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:27 PM.

Submitted by Christine Grenier