**Minutes – Sept. 17, 2015 – Kitsap Branch Council Meeting**

Location: Kitsap Cabin

Convened at 5:31 pm

Present: Jeff Schrepple (Branch Chair), Sue Labrie (Branch Vice Chair), Dianne Carey (Branch Treasurer, Tommy Thrasher (At Large Board Member), Dave Burton (At Large Board Member), Christine Grenier (Hiking Committee Chair), Vern Brown (Branch Director & Kayak Committee Chair), Linda Carnahan (Climbing Committee Chair).

**Agenda**

Branch Fiscal Status – Diane Carey

Branch: $1,150 – owes for rent for the cabin

$936 – owes for shared allocations

$7, 548 – has on account

$2,300 – bills yet to pay (out of the $7,548)

$24,000 – in the reserve fund

Dianne is resigning at the end of the fiscal year (Nov. 2015). Jeff will act as interim treasurer for the time being.

Minutes from the May 21st Branch Council Meeting were approved.

Membership – Dave Burton

Dave met with Kristina Ciari – (Staff Membership and Marketing Manager)

Club wide Goal: Increase membership 20% over 5 years (400/year)

Members: 9,765 – Aug. 2014

10,360 – Aug. 2015

Kitsap branch membership is at 238 as of Aug. 15, 2015, an increase of 9.2%. Other branches slightly up or down. Kitsap branch goal for next year 9% increase.

Additional topics to discuss with Kristina: What events and courses are driving increases in membership? How does the increase in free Meet-up event listings affect Mountaineers membership? What kinds of incentives can we offer to increase membership (example: discount for active military)? What outreach could reach potential members (example: conservation magazine subscribers & and increase in and advertising of Mountaineers conservation activities)?

Managing Committee – Jeff Schrepple

Traditionally the Club President Elect acts as chair of the Managing committee. Leah Schulz is President Elect, but she does not want to fill that role. Dan Lauren (Club President) was acting as chair of the MC for part of his term as President, but could not continue to do both jobs so there has not been a meeting since April 2015.

Vice President of Branches – a new position has been created as a result of the recent survey of Mountaineers members. Timmy Williams from the Seattle branch has been nominated for this position subject to approval by the board.

Martinique has stepped down, and we are seeking a new CEO with non-profit experience and a focus on fundraising. The Mountaineers has hired The Forest Group to search for candidates. In the meantime Elizabeth Lunney has agreed to be the interim director. She has experience as the Executive Director of the WTA for 14 years.

All the money from The Big Event, which was at risk because of the loss of receipts, has been recovered.

E-learning – We have some e-learning available on the website, and intend to expand in the area of navigation. Issues with e-learning – it costs a good deal of money to implement. How will we know what the returns on the investment are? How much will it cost? How will it be paid back?

Chris Williams (staff Leadership Development Manager) is offering to orient new members of the board.

Staff numbers: 17 full time, 3 part time, plus contract labor

**Activity Committees**

Climbing - Linda Carnahan

Basic Climbing Course – Ralph Wessels will be leading it and is looking for a co-chair, and for intermediate students to be leads for field trips.

Wilderness First Aid – partnering with Jefferson County Search and Rescue again to offer this. Target date: Feb. 26-28, 2016.

Navigation - Jerry Logan and Linda Carnahan – will teach the course. Class on Feb. 17th, followed by a field trip on a week-end soon after. (no charge for 2nd year basic or multi-year intermediate students).

Scramble Course – Phil Chebuhar will teach the course.

The Mountaineers has hired a consultant to evaluate our climbing program, the results should be in today.

Location – Intend to continue to use the Kitsap Cabin. Perhaps look into using a fire station, but we may not be able to use the Fire Stations if we are charging a fee.

Hiking – Christina Grenier

Number of listed hikes dropped off in August. Considering contacting leaders who have not listed recently and asking if they want to continue. Take them off the hike leader list if they don’t.

Kayaking – Vern Brown

Intermediate course has started. Covers: surf, currents, roll clinic. Advance navigation course in Nov. A Roll Clinic in Jan. depending on the interest. Pool Play in Jan. – open to all, Mountaineer members or not. It’s necessary to open it up to non-mountaineer people in order to get at least 10 people so we have enough money to rent the pool.

Naturalists – Vern Brown

Goal – To be able to offer our own Intro To the Natural World course – recruit knowledgeable people locally (various groups: Kitsap Audubon, etc.) and from within The Mountaineers.

**New Business**

Closing down the Kitsap Branch website – Jeff Schrepple for Mark Thibault

With many new and valuable improvements to the current Mountaineers website, Mark recommended that we close the old branch website. Everything we did on the old site can be done as well or better on the club site. Mark will only maintain a URL for the “Kitsap Branch of the Mountaineers” with a pointer to the location on the Mountaineers website. The EXCOM was unanimous in its approval of Mark’s recommendation.

Increasing Course Fees - Jeff Schrepple

Because of a potential significant shortfall in the total Mountaineers budget for FYE16, the Board asked the branches to do a good faith assessment of their course fees to determine if increases were keeping up with inflation or if the fees we charged were in line with local market value. Jeff told the group that he felt every course he looked at seemed fairly priced, except our WFA course, which was not fully covering its share of the overhead allocations from the headquarters. A course may appear to be run “at cost”, but we must cover more than just the direct expenses associated with specific courses.

Officer nominations for FYE16 – Jeff Schrepple

Branch Chair - Jeff Schrepple will continue

Vice Chair - Sue Labrie will continue

Treasurer – We need a Treasurer, but Jeff will act as interim treasurer.

Secretary – Linda Carnahan will take on the role.

Safety Officer – Tommy Thrasher will take on the role.

At Large Directors – Tommy Thrasher and Dave Burton each agreed to serve another year.

Branch Representative to the Mountaineers Board – Vern Brown agreed to continue in this role.

Annual Membership Meeting Location options:

Town Hall- Poulsbo, Eagles Nest- Bremerton Fairgrounds, Poulsbo Fire Station, Kitsap Cabin, VFW- Central Valley. Poulsbo Town Hall preferred.

Jeff will pick a date

Next ExComm Meeting will be held on Thursday, Nov. 19th at 5:45.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:15.