**Kitsap Branch EXCOM Meeting Minutes for May 2, 2017**

Held at the Fire Station 56, 6470 Seabeck Highway NW, Bremerton Washington

Present: Jeff Schrepple, Dave Burton, Christine Grenier, Sue Labrie, Mike Harlow, Jerry Logan, Ralph Wessels, Jeff McKay, Steve Anderson, and Gayla Perini.

The meeting was called to order at 5:50 pm.

**Agenda**

Introduction of new Kayak Committee Chair – Barney Bernhard

Unfortunately, Barney was not able to attend. As a long time member, many people already know Barney.

Approval of January Minutes – Christine made a motion to approve the January minutes and Sue seconded that motion. The minutes were then approved by a unanimous vote.

Branch Fiscal Status (expenditure against budget) -

The branch is in fairly good shape as far as actual expenses against the planned budget. A large amount budgeted for our kayaking committee will not be spent because our new kayaking chair did not feel comfortable trying to conduct a kayak course this year. Additionally, there is a similar amount of money in the climbing budget ($1,000 for rewards and recognition and $440 for a Personal Locator Beacon) that has not been spent to date. I asked Ralph to let me know whether those purchases would be made anytime soon as headquarters planned to do a budget scrub in May and I wanted to provide the most accurate information possible.

I also noted that the activities had submitted their budgets and that expenditure growth had exceeded revenue growth by quite a bit but that I had rationale from all that I believed would allow our budget to be approved, even though we were not in compliance with headquarter’s budget guidance.

**Activity Reports**

Basic Climbing – The basic course filled to capacity with 24 students this year. It is very likely that quite a few of the basic students will enroll in the intermediate course next year. Ralph feels that the basic course is definitely headed in the right direction.

Intermediate Climbing – Two students have signed up for the intermediate course this year. Despite this low class size, we do have 6 new climb leaders.

Hiking (and Backpacking) – Right now we are averaging 3 hikes a month with 9 hike leaders. As we head into the summer season, Christine expects the number of hikes to exceed 3 a month. Christine is also working with Doug Terry to re-energize our backpacking program. She intends to lead an easy backpacking trip.

Navigation – The next class will be conducted in October with those taking the course via elearning being able to start on September 20th. The winter class will be held in February. The Kitsap branch navigation committee may host the next navigation summit.

Naturalist Committee – Sue, Christine, and Carolyn Appleton had a very positive meeting with members of the Olympia branch on January 29th to jointly discuss plans for forming naturalists committees for their respective branches. She is planning two mushroom hikes in the coming year as well as a naturalist hike on the Grey Wolf trail.

Kayaking (per email correspondence) – There will be no sea kayak class this year but Barney is planning to conduct his first class in 2018. Nelson Stansbury has agreed to help teach.

Scrambling - No report.

Snow Shoe/Winter Travel – No report.

**Old Business**

Volunteer Recognition Programs (standards) – As promised, Jeff had prepared and distributed a first draft of a “Kitsap Branch Recognition and Reward Policy” which was the basis of a lively discussion relative to how to acknowledge the great work done by our most prolific volunteers.

Those present generally approved of the point system for branchwide rewards and recognition but were not certain how it could be implemented. Specifically, the discussion centered upon who would be responsible for reporting volunteers who filled any of the roles listed as well as who would assemble the data, compile the points, and determine who would receive the awards. Jeff subsequently contacted Steve LeBrun, the Foothills branch chair, to see how they implemented this policy for their branch, however, because of Steve’s job situation, we may not get an answer until July or August. This part of the Kitsap branch draft policy was modeled after that of the Foothills branch. There may also be a closeout report available to activity chairs, but that may only provide volunteer hours instead of specific individual roles/positions.

Also, as regards the cutoff for the group felt 40% might be OK as a starting point but urged that whoever compiled the year end data also look for a “natural break.”

There was also significant discussion concerning the section on course/class subsidies. Jeff created that section with the intent of rewarding the most prolific instructors/leaders so as to incentivize those not participating at that level to increase their participation in those activities and thus get help with sought after training. However, it was the consensus of the climbers present that the purpose of subsidizing courses/classes was to improve the course instruction and not to provide incentives to potential instructors/leaders. As a result of this discussion, Jeff agreed to remove this section from the next draft of the plan.

A proposal to use branch funds to pay a guide service to show us new routes and/or destinations to alleviate overcrowding on existing climbs was rejected as being duplicative of a club effort.

Jeff agreed to revise the first draft in time for a followup discussion at the next EXCOM meeting in September.

**New Business**

Need a Vice-Chair, one at Large Trustee, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and a New Chair for next year – Our vice-chair, at large trustee, and secretary positions are available to fill immediately. Jeff again noted that this is his fourth and last year as chair. Fortunately, he has found two people who might be willing to serve as chair and he is in correspondence with both to answer any questions they may have.   He is also concerned that this apparent lack of interest in the branch administrative positions could lead to the branch’s demise. Jeff agreed that he would help mentor anyone who was willing to take on one of those positions next year and that he would remain as treasurer for at least one more year if a new chair can be found. However, he will not serve as treasurer without a branch chair in place.

Ideas for a phototalk at the nest General Membership meeting – Jeff asked if anyone had made any interesting trips that they would like to share with the other branch members at the October general membership meeting. While none were offered during the meeting, Gayla offered to present the pictures of her upcoming trip to Machu Picchu.

Selection of Month for Next Quarter’s Meeting – Members present decided that the next quarterly meeting should be held the second week of September. That would be either the 12th or 14th depending upon which day the firestation was available. Since that facility can’t be reserved more than 60 days out, the exact date could not be determined at this time.

Meeting adjourned at 7:52 pm.