**Final Version**

**Kitsap Mountaineers Executive Committee Meeting September 18, 2013**

Members Present:

Jimmy James, Jeff Schrepple, Dave Burton, Dianne Carey, Tom Thrasher, and Mark Thibault.

Meeting commenced at 5:40 pm

BRANCH CHAIR REPORT : Jimmy offered no comments and turned the meeting over to Dave Burton to cover old business.

OLD BUSINESS

Kitsap Branch Plan: Dave Burton noted that he was standing in for John Davis in presenting the plan, which serves two purposes.

First, the plan directs branch efforts in the support and execution of key goals and objectives of the Mountaineers Strategic Plan.

Secondly, it provides guidelines to support discussions and help define the working relationship and responsibilities for those parties also using the Kitsap Cabin and related facilities.

Dave noted that John has achieved a major accomplishment in receiving the Foundation Secretary’s endorsement of the branch position regarding the Altwein bequest. Although this endorsement is significant, he also noted that the job of achieving agreement with other users of the Kitsap Cabin and related facilities is only half done as negotiations with those other organizations still lies ahead. To be successful in those negotiations, we need a strong strategic plan which we do not yet have. The development of such a plan has begun using information already provided by the activity chairs, however, some additional detail is needed from a few of them. Dave and John would also like to have input from the general membership at the October annual meeting. Those who were present at the EXCOM meeting offered some additional comments and thoughts and Dave asked that we follow up on more discussion via email after the meeting.

In the plan, John and Dave identified five operational areas which are necessary for successful implementation of the plan (and of the headquarters strategic plan goals and objectives) over the next four years:

1. **Membership Growth:**  We must stabilize branch membership numbers and then achieve steady growth. To do this we will need to define a membership recruitment plan.
2. **Reorganize:** We need to use available resources more effectively to reduce admin workload and stress.
3. **Program Development:** Improve current branch offerings, evaluate new ones, and develop our leadership personnel.
4. **Improve Communications:** With both our members and our local community. The latter effort is intended to create a better awareness of our branch with local residents.
5. **Build:** a greater sense of community within the branch for both members and leadership.

As noted earlier John and Dave welcome input on the plan from any member and will specifically address the plan at the annual general membership meeting in October.

A significant discussion took place among the members present relative to growing our membership. The consensus was that it was necessary that we do so, even if a strong increase in our numbers barely raised the overall Mountaineers membership levels. Many thought that if we could be successful in growing the branch membership, perhaps headquarters would use the “best practices” we developed for use across the greater organization.

As of September 30th, Dave had received input on the Branch planning process from about a third of the EXCOM members and was asking for a response from the remaining ones. Comments – both pro and con- are welcome but he would like to get all comments no later than October 6th so he can formalize the plan content so as to share it with the attendees at the annual general membership meeting the following week.

Branch Budget Report: Dianne reported that the branch had income in August but no expenditures and that we have a net positive balance. As the current fiscal year is almost at an end, she asked that if anyone had any outstanding expenses, that they provide her the receipts before the end of the month so she can close out the books for the year.

Support to the Headquarters IT Upgrades: Jeff Schrepple noted that he received an acknowledgement from headquarters after his name was submitted as the branch website testing representative, but so far had received no requests for support.

NEW BUSINESS

Preparation for the Annual General Membership Meeting: Although the general membership meeting is usually held the first Monday in October, the members present agreed to change the date to the second Monday in order to enable more of the branch leadership to be present. Jimmy agreed to reserve the Silverdale Community Center or some similar facility for this event.

Vote to Allow Katha to Support This Year’s Salmon Safari: Although Katha is no longer a member of the Mountaineers, the members present unanimously approved her request to support this year’s effort in light of the enormous amount of institutional knowledge and past experience she has in this arena.

Closing Remarks: None.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 pm.