

Officer Committee Meeting
Olympia Center

January 13th, 2016

Attendance

Officers:

- Brian List, Chair
- Andy Weber, Chair Elect
- Derek Pierson, Secretary
- Henry Romer, Director
- Donna Kreuger, Social Chair
- Kimberly Pohlman, Treasurer
- Greg Lovelady, Member at Large

Members:

- Bob Keranen

Brian List called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Activity Summit Report:

Brian List said that the activity summit went well although he was unable to attend.

Kimberly Pohlman said that there is a brief summary of the outcome of the activity summit that she has prepared.

- * Donna Kreuger will look into setting up another activity summit at the Olympia Center from 6pm to 9pm. Donna also said that Sharron has set up a hiker rendezvous for Friday January 22nd at 6:30pm at the Oly Taproom.

Officer Reports:

Treasurer: Kimberly Pohlman handed out the new branch financial model document, which she pointed out has a major type which she inquired about to the program center. Kim also said that the new software for budget reports should be available tomorrow. She also said she has been working with Alison to reconcile some of the “miss-booked” sub accounts. Kim also said that she was unable to get specifics but she did learn during her conference call is that branches would submit the prospective cost per course to the finance committee. She also said another change is the removal of branch reserves by adding a 5 year “use it or lose it” policy. Kim also mentioned that the Kitsap branch has received a \$663,000 gift from a longtime member, \$200,000 of which will go directly to the branch and the other \$463,000 will go to hiring a “communications specialist” and the club's strategic plan.

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Andy Weber said that he has concerns with the idea of allowing or denying requests at the program center level and feels it could cause a loss of accountability. He also said that due to the changes in the financial model we need to look at what to do with our current reserves now instead of later.

Henry Romer said in regards to Andy's comment that to make this new model work the leadership committee has to address issues with why requests were denied or allowed. Henry also said that if more effort is put into course pricing at the leadership level a more rational price may be achieved. He also said with the restructure of things like the inclusion of Mountaineer Books, course revenue alone won't be the key driver anymore. Henry also said that The Mountaineers exist because of a legacy of hardworking volunteers that are directly supported and trained by adult activities. He also said that he agrees with taking out the money metric and focusing solely on fostering quality volunteers instead. He also noted that the new financial model doesn't take effect until next October.

Bob Keranen said that he feels this won't affect the actual course material or quality but it will affect events like BANFF which is a big money maker for our branch. He also said that it is important that we maintain pride in local programs which can't be instituted from the top down, regardless of whether the economy goes south or not.

Brian List said that he is particularly concerned that the program center will push branches to "unify" course prices. He also said that thus far the program center has solved problems by throwing money at new jobs which is not the right way to address the problem. Brian said he is also concerned about the possibility of backlash from course and activity chairs due to removal of power in regards to budgeting and so far he sees no issue with handling it at a branch level.

Derek Pierson said that he agrees with most of what has been said, in particular the course pricing issue; he feels that if the course price goes up, it will most certainly become unaffordable to local Olympia residents considering the cost of living is so much less than, say Seattle. He also said that he's not a huge fan of the push to move the club into a business model considering the state of private business in the state of Washington being so unstable, why would we subject ourselves to the same problems, also aren't we a non-profit?

Donna Kreuger said that with these new changes a lot of responsibility falls on the program center and transparency is key.

Greg Lovelady said that given these new changes he is curious what our intensive to do fundraisers would be? He is also concerned about what will happen to the reserves after five years. He said that he does not want to lose them if they do "disappear".

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Other Business

Brian List said that the next managing committee meeting is on the 19th at the Tacoma branch program center.

Andy Weber said that he is working on a new nomination committee and asked if Henry has any recommendations for kayaking.

* Henry Romer said he will look into it and get back to Andy.

Brian List adjourned the meeting at 8:00 PM.

The next meeting is February 10th at 6:00 PM at the Olympia Center.