

Olympia Branch Council

Meeting Minutes – 12/9/2020

Teleconference

Attendees

Officers: *Neal Kirby, Bob Keranen, Scott Carlson, Dean Taylor, Mike Kretzler, Virginia Haas, Max Dunkelman*

Guests: *Becky Nielsen, Donna Kreuger, Paul Kallman, Monty Pratt, Regina Robinson, Nancy Lloyd, Michelle Garcia*

Agenda Items

Meeting called to order at 6:00pm

Approval of November 2020 minutes

- The November minutes were approved by all

Virtual Open House – Virginia Haas and Maxine Dunkelman

- Virginia prepared a press release for publication and will try to collect a Banff sign-up list from Richard Kennedy
- Becky Nielsen will be the talking host
- Each activity is asked to present about three minutes of content (a slide or a live presentation) before breakout rooms
- After the main presentation there will be at least two breakout room sessions for each activity that will each last for 10-15 minutes
- Participants and presenters are asked to use the event on the club website to RSVP for this virtual activity

Posted Paid Youth Position (Olympia branch) – Neal Kirby

- A position has been posted for a part-time helper, 6 to 18 hours a month, to help run contracted after school or other paid programs
- The funds for the program are mostly coming out of the Program Center, not the branch budget

- Since it is paid, does this position cause difficulties since all other branch positions are not? There were no objections or concerns

Planning Calendar – Neal Kirby

- We will work on the draft with the intent of making it a blueprint for a non-Covid year. Neal will use it tentatively as the year progresses, making edits as we move through the year
- Dean will post a revised version on the Olympia branch website when Neal is ready

Concern with Program Center regarding Olympia eBlasts – Neal Kirby

- We have an ongoing issue with the Program Center concerning content getting changed or removed before the eBlast is sent out
- Since our adventure speaker series is inactive (due to Covid) the Program Center is no longer sending out our eBlasts with the custom timing we want. Our eBlasts are currently sent with the same timing as all other branches

Reminders – Neal Kirby

- eBlast submissions are due on the 15th of each month
- December 20 is the deadline to submit any listings for permitted DNR trips to Sara

Activity Reports

Communications Committee – Neal Kirby (on behalf of Dee Ann Kline)

- Tom Eckhout had a mini-skills class for Winter Travel focusing on avalanche awareness. There were 61 participants. They stayed for the entire program, asked some good questions and feedback was really positive.
- Tom has another Winter Travel clinic tomorrow. Around 50 participants are currently registered.
- Dee Ann may look at putting other clinics together for spring/summer activities like navigation, hiking, backpacking, kayaking.
- Dee Ann is working on a blog about other courses that start in Jan and Feb like Wilderness Skills, Skiing and Leadership.

Scrambling – Paul Kallman

- Paul is hosting two mini-skills classes for scrambling scheduled for Dec. 15 & 22.

Branch Officer Reports

Director – Mike Kretzler

- Attended a virtual board of directors retreat that discussed the year end budget report. He reported that the club holding steady.

Past Chair – Bob Keranen

- Has over 200 “Thank you” cards available that activity chairs could use in lieu of a recognition banquet. Contact bobkeranen@gmail.com for more info on these cards.
- The Program Center's virtual teaching session last Fall was awesome. Zoom, Google Classroom and a few other programs were mentioned. He highly recommends this course for activity presenters.

Secretary – Dean Taylor

- Transfer of the Olympia branch Zoom account has gone smoothly. Several activity leaders have already used it to create and host new meetings. We now only need to use the Program Center for Zoom meetings that require more than 100 participants or advanced features, or if two Olympia meetings need to occur in the same time slot.
- In January we will start using the Olympia Zoom account for branch council meetings. This change will be transparent to participants, the only difference will be a new Zoom link (URL). I will create an Olympia branch calendar “event” on the website for each 2021 meeting so people can RSVP if they choose to, however that is not required.

Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 7:14pm