

Olympia Branch Council

Meeting Minutes – 1/13/2021

Teleconference

Attendees

Officers: *Neal Kirby, Bob Keranen, Scott Carlson, Dean Taylor, Mike Kretzler, Beth Peden*

Guests: *Dee Ann Kline, Paul Kallman, Michelle Garcia, Becky Nielsen, Nancy Lloyd, Mike Riley*

Agenda Items

Meeting called to order at 6:08pm

Approval of December 2020 minutes

- The December minutes were approved by all

Virtual Open House – Neal Kirby (on behalf of Virginia Haas and Maxine Dunkelman)

- We had about 25 presenters and breakout room volunteers. The total number of participants peaked at 62, so there were at least 37 participants. This number of participants is very much in line with the number that have been attending the monthly Open House event put on by the Program Center. Our event was unique because it featured activity breakout rooms and promoted classes run by the Olympia Branch.
- For comparison purposes, our most previous event on Jan 2, 2020 at St. Martin's had about 125 people overall - with about 35 volunteers.

Reminders – Neal Kirby

- eBlast submissions are due on the 15th of each month

Input Sought on Activity Summit Process – Neal Kirby

- Question — When is a summit decision an expectation of each branch or an option for each branch? The Olympia Branch Council supports requiring the minimum standards, with the understanding that branches can add more above the minimum, and the activity summit should make clear which are the minimum standards required.
- Question — When can a decision be reconsidered? The Olympia Branch Council supports a clear process for making a decision and the decision should be by consensus. It should also be made clear how a branch gets an item on the agenda for summits and that agendas for summits should be clearly posted in advance so everyone knows which decisions are being made. (There has been an issue with

absent chairs not agreeing with their proxy's vote and wanting to reconsider after the summit; proxies should be fully informed if they are representing the branch.)

- Question — Who votes at summits? Currently it is unclear who votes at summits, and, for the climbing summit where the greatest controversy lies, the Olympia Branch Council supports a unanimous vote for consensus and only the climbing chairs should vote. The council believes non-climbing chairs should be allowed to join the summits and provide input to decisions, but not be allowed vote.
- Question — Are decisions of summits recorded accurately? The Olympia Branch Council believes they are and that the perception that we see it as a problem is false. The council believes all decisions should be recorded.
- Question — Should staff or branch leadership run the summits? The Olympia Branch Council supports staff planning and running the summit, building the agenda with branch leadership input, and posting the agendas in advance, but leaving it to leadership to lead discussion and to make the decisions. Staff take input from branch leaders in writing the agenda, planning the meeting, and running the consensus process, but staff should not vote or take positions on which way to vote, but could answer questions, both plus and minus, of the possible impact of a decision.
- Question — Should there be a consensus decision-making model or a majority voting model for decisions at the summit? The Olympia Branch Council very strongly supports a consensus model and sees it critical to the unity of the Mountaineers. It keeps all branches engaged, incorporates all branches' concerns into any final decision, and leaves all branches equally empowered in the decision making process. (As stated in the previous question, there should be one vote from each branch cast by the chair of that activity.) The consensus model would best assure all activity chairs feel empowered and will attend the meetings, whereas a majority voting model will disenfranchise those who regularly lose in the voting process and discourage attendance at summits.
- Question — Does the Branch Leadership Council (BLC) have jurisdiction over the decision-making model of the summits, can the BLC change the decision-making model of the summits, or can only the summits themselves change the decision-making model of each summit? The Olympia Branch Council supports the climbing summit charter's current decision-making model and does not believe the BLC has jurisdiction to change it.

Activity Reports

Communications Committee – Dee Ann Kline

- There was enough interest in the mini skills classes that she wants to set more up for the spring. Perhaps kayaking. She wants to charge for them.
- Program Center resources are low but they helped out with promoting the Open House. They haven't been able to help out much with the eBlast. We hope for more once the Adventure Series begins again.

Hiking – Michelle Garcia

- There is a new young people program (0-6 years old), which just had an activity at McLane creek. There are four family events planned for February.

Scrambling – Paul Kallman

- Meeting as a committee next week. We have 20 students signed up. Everything is on target.

Wilderness Skills – Bob Keranen (on behalf of Jennifer Goodwin)

- There are 43 students signed up. Others are trying to sign up late. We may be able to run it again in the spring since it is now being redeveloped as a Zoom class.

MOFA – Bob Keranen

- There is a WFA provider. BASE Medical is less expensive than other options.

Basic Climbing – Julie Dasso

- The traditional 2021 basic climbing course has been canceled. However, a new compressed three-session option has been set up to take its place this year. She needs three climb leaders to teach the sessions. She is rolling over the fees of last year's students into the compressed course. She hopes to offer both the traditional and the compressed courses in 2022.

Branch Officer Reports

Director – Mike Kretzler

- The board last met in November. There is a January meeting.

Chair-Elect – Beth Peden

- Finance committee didn't meet in December. We are running at a \$112,000 loss, but that is better than expected. The storage unit expense is paid.

Secretary – Dean Taylor

- The Olympia branch Zoom account now supports meetings with up to 500 participants.
- There is an Olympia branch calendar “event” on the website for our 2021 branch council meetings.

Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 7:32pm