

Olympia Branch Council

Meeting Minutes – 05/10/2023

In person at the Olympia Center

Attendees

Officers: Janette Zumbo, Becky Daughtry, Beth Peden, Mike Kretzler, Scott Carlson, Beth Spaulding

Guests: Karen Pyle, Jim French

Agenda Items

Meeting called to order at 6:12 PM

Last month's April minutes approved.

Agenda Review /Norms Review/Call for additional Items: Janette Zumbo

No additions to the agenda- no questions about the norms

1. Stick to the agenda
2. Be open to ideas
3. Address ideas not people
4. One speaker at a time
5. No side chatter
6. Okay to disagree, not okay to be disagreeable,
7. Respect each other's time

Activity chair report (for chairs in attendance)

Navigation: Mike Kretzler

Great year! 60 students graduated. The virtual platform greatly increased the amount of administrative desk work, and the large class size required a lot of volunteers to run the field days. For these reasons we may reduce class size next year. A common theme, as with other courses, is there were a lot of out of area students this year which impacts the local volunteer base. There were 5 incident reports due to conditions and slash piles on the hillside typically used for the long navigation activity. The area used for this exercise may be moved next year.

After 13 years, Mike will begin recruitment for his replacement due to plans to step down as Navigation Activity Chair after next year. Thank you Mike-

Conservation: Jim French

Jim is requesting that the Olympia Branch challenge other branches of the Mountaineers to implement a policy that challenges each of its branch members to complete one day of stewardship. The program center supports this challenge. The Branch Chair agreed to coordinate with Jim to support.

The Mountaineers were recognized for the Citizenship Stewardship and Partnership as a Group volunteer and service award by the Forest Service Pacific Northwest Region. Nice work Jim!

Cross-country skiing: Karen Pyle

The cross-country skiing course when well this year. There was a total of 15 students, only 4 from Olympia. 10 graduated, 3 were extended and 2 dropped out. 21 students were waitlisted. There is more demand than the club has capacity to accommodate. There was some discussion about the impact on the Olympia volunteer base, with so many out of area students taking the course. This has been a building year for the course. Henry has been a huge part of structuring the course and he intends to step down. Skiing is now separated from the snowshoe course. It needs two field trips to provide enough opportunity for instruction for the students. To address these needs and ensure an adequate instructor base, Karen recommends holding instructor training of trainers, led by a PSI certified instructor. She will submit a budget request as a part of course expenses for the upcoming year.

Officer reports and updates**Chairman:** Janette Zumbo

The incoming Chair Elect has formed a committee that will identify candidates for the upcoming election. Chairman Elect, Treasurer and Director will be up for election this year. It was suggested that the Social Chair have an incoming elect position due to workload, timing of events and onboarding needs.

Janette reported out for Climbing that there is now an Olympia Basic Climbing equivalency course that will go live in June.

Director: Mike Kretzler

The Board Meeting is next week. PC reached out about the magazine update and Janette will follow up to be sure inquiries are direct to the Chair. Siana Wong will attend the Board meeting month to talk about Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

Social Chair: Elizbeth Spaulding

After some discussion, a date for the Fall Open house was locked in for early October. Those in attendance felt that moving this event to Fall would greatly enhance the functionality in that courses would not already be full. It may also increase local enrollment in courses. It will require some messaging for course and activity chairs as they will need to get their courses organized and posted on an earlier timeline.

Treasurer: Beth Peden

The PC has a new Finance Director that expressed value in transparency and feedback. Allocations for the next year's operating budget are being submitted now. Course and activity chairs need to submit their projected course expenses for next year. This includes equipment needs as well as any special projects. The Board discussed how to align budget planning with course needs and the factors impacting the ability to request funds. Wednesday May 17th the Treasurer is conducting a budget workshop for course and activity chairs to help answer questions about the process.

Future Meetings:

June 14th, 2023, virtual Zoom meeting

(Rotating in person and virtual every other month until further notice)

Reminder – eBlast submissions are due on the 15th of each month.

(ReginaEblastolympiamountaineers@hotmail.com)

Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 7:12 PM