

# Olympia Branch Council

Meeting Minutes – 01/09/2024

*Olympia Center, room 200*

## Attendees

Officers: Mandi Maycumber, Mike Riley, Dean Taylor, Jeremy Hogan, Elizabeth Spaulding

Guests: Donna Kreuger

## Agenda Items

Meeting called to order at 6:00pm

- Norms Review – Mandi Maycumber
  - Stick to the agenda
  - Be open to ideas
  - Address ideas not people
  - One speaker at a time
  - No side chatter
  - Okay to disagree, not okay to be disagreeable
  - Respect each other's time
- Approval of December 2023 minutes
  - The December 2023 minutes were approved by all.
- Volunteer Recognition Updates – Mandi Maycumber
  - Eight of the thirteen committees have collected their \$25 volunteer recognition gift cards so far.
  - The board approved spending \$1410 in volunteer recognition money toward 100 Buffs that incorporate the Olympia Mountaineers logo.
  - The board also approved spending \$978 in volunteer recognition money to purchase narrow-mouth Nalgene bottles that incorporate the Olympia Mountaineers logo.

- Social Chair – Elizabeth Spaulding

- Elizabeth will procure an itemized list of the 2023 banquet costs to give the board a starting point for determining fee allowances for the 2024 banquet.

- Treasurer Updates – Jeremy Hogan

- The Olympia branch has historically kept a post office box for physical mail. The current annual fee for maintaining the box is \$358, and with the exception of local printshop orders (which we are now routing elsewhere), we have received nothing but junk mail in the box for several years. The board ultimately decided to not renew the post office box.

- Hiking Committee – Donna Kreuger

- Carla Jonientz will be stepping down as Co-Chair of the Hiking and Backpacking Committee in February 2024 so that she can take on co-chair of the Naturalist Committee along with Becky Andrade. The search for a replacement co-chair has begun. Donna Kreuger will stay on while a co-chair is recruited to assure staggered terms for the co-chairs.

- Monty Pratt has been chair of the Backpacking course for a number of years. He is now Co-Chair of the Hiking and Backpacking Committee with a focus on backpacking and will continue as Chair of the backpacking course.

- New hike leaders will be required to successfully complete Wilderness First Aid and Wilderness Navigation or On-Trail Navigation within 1 year of completing their assistant lead and mentored lead. Upon successful completion of 2 trips led as primary leader, the new hike leader can apply for reimbursement of 50% of the cost of the Wilderness First Aid Course. This will not apply to new hike leaders who have previously taken the courses or are taking it as a requirement to graduate from another course such as Scrambling or Climbing.

- Backpack leaders will be required to have both Wilderness First Aid and Wilderness Navigation.

- Conditioning Hiking Series course is moving forward for 2024 with good hike leader support in these early days. The course will open for registration on February 1. Mike McIntosh and Terri Pressly are Co-chairs.

- 2024 Hiking, Backpack, and Urban Walk Summit: The three groups have enough similarity and overlap that they met for a portion of the summit as a single group and then split into separate activity summit groups, returning to wrap up the day as a combined group. No change was made to the club wide minimum standards for hiking. The club wide minimum standards for backpacking is under review and expected to be updated to include two levels of backpack trips: 1) Open backpack trips and 2) Basic backpacking trips, that would require successful completion of a basic backpacking course. The Urban Walk group continues to

develop their club wide minimum standards, leader training, and definitions. There is some overlap in trips that could be potentially led by urban walk leaders and hike leaders, such as front country areas. The combined group spent considerable time discussing and clarifying a recommended language to define the front and back country areas. The request for clarity was presented to the group as coming from the First Aid group to aid in clarifying their activities. A recommended club wide definition of front and back country was agreed upon by the full summit group and that will be forwarded to the First Aid group.

- Secretary – Dean Taylor
  - Our next meeting will be held Tuesday, February 13 @ 6pm on Zoom.

## **Adjourn**

Meeting was adjourned at 6:50pm