Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chair Peter Hendrickson with a welcome and Agenda Review. Present were: Guest CEO Guest F McCord, T Vogl, J Jet Klansic, G Swartzman, D Shema, B Seater, G Testa, L McWethy, J Jecker, P Hendrickson, A Smart, C Porter, A Vogt, S Terada and B Polglase.

Minutes from last meeting approved without correction (Motion: A Vogt, C Porter).

Chair Briefing – Peter Hendrickson

* Tom Vogl, new CEO week 2
  + Appreciates the unique position of Mountaineer volunteers and thanks them
  + History of working with outdoor organizations
  + Excited to be the new CEO
  + Impressed with Mtnr history, track record, and all the opportunities in the future.
  + Board Retreat on March 19. Key theme will be branch health. Indicators and commitments to improve health. Sharing results of member survey that was just completed this week. Speaks to the priorities we have. Work to keep members engaged.
  + Focus also on the effectiveness of the board. More clarity on what it means to be a high functioning board.
* Volunteer Recognition Dinner full house, strong feedback
  + Well received, looking forward to next year.
* eLearning Wilderness Navigation workshop launched 6 March
  + 18 students, including the CEO. Max 24 students [Waitlist as of 14Mar]
  + Instructors monitor the students as they progress, handle admin chores, host on-line chats
* New volunteers search
  + Is it time for new database dump to see if any new members have offered volunteer skills—Yes, chair will request.
* Calendar revision 2016, Calendar date claims 2017
  + Updated meetings/events dates
  + Seattle gets 5-6 events featured in Monthly activity newsletter
* Managing Committee New Chair, Tab (Bruce) Wilkins
  + Tab is Vice President of Branches – new position
* Hiking, Scramble, Navigation committee meetings
  + Peter is visiting all the Seattle Activity meetings. Visited Retired Rovers yesterday and had cake.
* Conducted recon on Little Si for “Staying Found” Seattle initiative
  + Non-credit course. Field Trip will complement existing Intro course.
* Reviewed Freedom 9 draft, Ch 2 Gear (S McClure, author)
* Engaged with Photo committee around marketing activities
* Committees’ program goals, ambitions, needs 2016-17
  + Budget season has started for the next year.
  + Plea to you to not only think of continuing current activities but also think of new things your committee can add to their program. New 2017 fiscal year starts in October 2016.

Safety Officer Briefing – Helen Arntson written report

* New club safety chair Dave Shema
* Trends, observations, requests
* Branch Safety Officer has been following up with trip participants on Safety Concerns

Board of Directors Rep Briefing – Patrick Mullaney

* BOD retreat Saturday, March 19

Program Staff Rep Briefing – Becca Polglase

* Updates
  + New CEO – staff excited to have him on board
  + Chris Williams trying to expedite experienced folks who wish to become a hike leader. Goal is to have on-line leader applications that would get forwarded to appropriate activity chair. *Suggestion: have mountaineers.org email addresses for committees.* Working on implementing a search for volunteers by skill set.
  + On Youth Programs: Mountain Workshops – 40% growth over last year.
  + Board approved new set of youth policies that help integrate youth and adult programs.
  + High demand for public lands. This coming weekend, 92 folks going to Vantage. Not desirable from Mountaineer viewpoint. Leaders are communicating to mitigate impact.
  + Room reservations open for 2017. Best to get done this month.

Treasurer Briefing – John Jecker

* Report
  + Revenue up for first 3 months.
  + John wants to still get revenue information, but focus is now on expenses.
  + Revenue projections based on current actuals, new classes: students x fee, all adjusted downward by 80% as conservative estimate
  + Expenses are lower than budgeted currently.
  + Seattle Climbing is undertaking a pilot where all climbs have at least one rescue locator beacon in the group.
  + Seattle Branch membership is up as unaffiliated members choose Seattle. 7,100+ Seattle, nearly 12,000 total for club. (thru Jan 2016)
  + Lots of word-of-mouth encouraging increase in members.
  + Becca – increasing new leader capacity – working on contacting folks who complete a course and suggesting ways to continue to contribute.
  + Treasurer Presentation in separate document.
* Budget development 2016-17
  + MARCH - Focus on program goals. Build Program Goals – # of courses, activities, events, seminars...suggested pricing, anticipated volumes
  + APRIL - build Expense Budgets, propose new initiatives.
  + MAY-SEPTEMBER - Reviews and Finalize.
  + OCTOBER – Final approval by Board on October 6th,
* Climbing committee budget revision, request to Finance Cmte 22 Feb was granted in full.

Secretary Briefing – Dave Shema

* Report
  + AED [defibrillator] now at Program Center
* Proposed Amendments to Branch Charter
  + Add a vice chair. Chairs newly formed membership committee
  + Add executive committee composed of 6 officers which can handle urgent issues.
  + Bi-monthly full meetings continue.
  + **Tabled** until next meeting to give all activity chairs a chance to look it over.

Old Business –

* Friction Slabs status—Information
  + Working on agreement with contractor, funds are there.
* Family Activities – New Committee? --No Action taken, Discussion only
  + Family Activities committee might wish to take family on activities that are offered by other activity committees (Hiking, kayaking, etc.)
  + Olympia is offering family subcommittees within a major Activity committee. This model might work better.
  + Skiing is working with Josh Gannis to figure out how to integrate youth into program.
  + Youth under age of 14 need an authorized person to be with youth. Does not have to be a parent.
  + Youth 14-17 can be allowed into a course with parent’s permission. There is a full packet of forms. Parents can choose who carpool drivers are.
  + Not every instructor needs to be a youth leader. The Youth Leaders in the activity have more responsibility to ensure safety.
  + New youth policy is in Board of Directors folder.
  + Family Activities are family/youth centered. Programs with youth involved are primarily adult activities with some youth taking part.
  + Peter – Please think about how your committee can address including family centered activities.

New Business –

Tabled

* Singles Committee – Dissolve? –Action
* Concussion seminar – Schedule? --Action
* Reach out to underserved communities in Greater Seattle – Information
* Branch Operating Manual – project lead?

Committee Reports – Kindly include efforts towards:

* Nurture healthy branch/staff/board relationships [Esp. Summits]
* Reach out to underserved communities in Greater Seattle
* Provide professional development for volunteers
* Advance renewed, improved curricula, instruction & assessment/evaluation

**Alpine Scrambling** – Stan Terada

* 130 students, planned for 125. Many still on wait list.

**Avalanche** – Loren McWethy –

* New chair, still learning how to make the transition. (Was under climbing)
* 48 students, student basically Intermediate Climbing students. Registration closed after 1.5 hours. Heavy demand.
* Number of instructors can’t keep up with demand. Trying to build up the instructor base. Everett has worked to build their instructor base.
* Currently a committee of one; immediate goal is to grow the committee, then grow the course offerings.
* Nation-wide there is a trend to separate Professional and Recreation courses – still under development.

**Backpacking** – Todd Mitchell (no report)

**Climbing** – Stef Schiller written report

* Purchasing 10 personal locator beacons, part of a pilot program to encourage all climbs to have at least one locator beacon in the party.
* American Alpine Club is teaching their Gold Standard Belay Curriculum at the Program Center coming Sunday (13 March).
* No progress on offering an AMGA instructor course to improve the quality of our climbing instruction.

**Family Activities** – Becca Polglase (Staff) See earlier comments.

**First Aid** - Mary Panza (no report)

**Folk Dance -** Johnny Jeans (no report)

**Hiking** – Heidi Walker

* Full classes, with waitlists.
* Basic Wilderness Skills course to be offered.
* Chris Williams trying to get a video for new hikers – what to expect on a trip.

**Leadership** – Lawrence Landauer

* To be put back together

**Midweek Hikes** – Edmunde Lewin (no report)

**Naturalists** – Gordie Swartzman

* Hike of the Month series is proving popular and have been fully subscribed.
* Committing to sending out a monthly newsletter for advertising Naturalists events as well as other those of other organizations (Audubon, Native Plant Society, etc.)
* Intro to the Natural World course begins in April. 36 already signed up.
* Upcoming seminars: 1) Mosses, 2) Lichens, 3) Butterflies

**Navigation** – Brian Starlin & Greg Testa

* Greg is moving south, leaving Brian to look for a new co-chair
* Working with Compressed Scrambling and Intense Basic Climbing
* Spring course – 16 slots left. Everyone else rolls into the fall.
* 10 new members every week want to take a navigation course. Will have to take course in fall.

**Photography** – Anne Smart

* Working on getting folks to sign up for classes.

**Retired Rovers** – Storm Yanicks –

* 20 folks at event this week. Regular group of members.

**Sailing** – Alan Vogt

* 21 signed up, and 40 spots remaining. Course starts in 2 weeks (?). Working on getting folks to sign up.
* Every year there seems to be a surge in sign up.
* New skippers this year.
* Kick off event scheduled in 2 weeks. 5 boats going to Port Madison.

**Paddle Sports** –George Swapp – (no report)

**Singles Activities –** Eldon Ball – (no report)

**Skiing** – Carry Porter

* 59 students this year, started Facebook group that helped formed informal trips (not enough leaders),
* In April, Ski Chair summit with coordinated planning for next year. Branch classes are very different. Want Instruction to be consistent. Have Joint marketing of courses, as courses are so different. Want better job of marketing. Asked to contact Chris Williams re: Branch summit
* Meeting with Foothills to coordinate leadership requirements, then will recruit new leaders. Have eye on a number of new leaders. Also, trying to get new instructors who need PSIA certification.
* Already in the planning stages for Winter Trails Day 2017 with Chris Ensor. (Winter Trails Day is moving to Winter Trails Month nationally)
* Talking with Josh about creating a youth class in Nordic skiing. Kids in cross-country skiing; seems to be exploding.

**Snowshoeing –** Jimmy Jett Klansnic

* Basic: 87 students, 74 graduated
* Backountry: 30 signed up, 24 completed the course.
* Winter Camping: Good participation
* Need more instructors. A few folks doing a lot of instruction
* Beginning a review of this year’s courses, then will look at next year’s courses in April.

**20-30 Somethings** - Brian Seater

* Forming a committee

**Youth Outreach** – Josh Gannis (Staff) – No report.

**Good of the Order –**

* 25-30 new members/week are joining the Mountaineers
* Raising the level of instructor to professional status is important.
* Certification for Skiing, avalanche, snowshoe, climbing is improving the quality of the program. Most committees are sponsoring their instructors.

Adjourned: 9:00

**The Seattle Branch meeting occurs on the 2rd Thursday of every odd month, 6:30 p.m. For 2016 –**

**May 12 – Jul 14** – **Sep 08** – **Nov 10**