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Tacoma, WA

www.tacomamountaineers.org

Mountaineers, Tacoma Branch Council Meeting
Minutes for 18 June 2020

- I. Call to order. The June 18, 2020, Tacoma Branch Mountaineers Council meeting was held virtually via Zoom conferencing (due to Mountaineers and Washington State stay-at-home directives). The meeting was called to order by Curtis Stock at 7:05 PM and is presented in the order per the agenda. Council members present: Curtis Stock, Mark Kerr and Scott Schissel. Steve Knowles was also present.
Absent: Natalia Martinez-Paz (Vice-chair), Harley Sandoval (Treasurer), Lisa Hayek (At-Large) and Sarah Holt (Program Center administrator).
- II. Welcome and introductions. Welcomed Steve Knowles, attending as the branch Safety chair.
- III. Approval of Minutes. The minutes of the May 7 meeting had been distributed after the previous meeting and there were no changes or corrections. The minutes were approved as distributed.
- IV. Information and discussion items.
 - a. COVID-19 – Phase 2 and Phase 3 Reopening Trip Guidelines.
 - i. Curtis had distributed DRAFT Phase 2 guidelines as they were provided by HQ staff. There were only a few people who provided feedback, mostly that the guidelines were too directive and trip leaders could make many of the determinations based on their own judgment. There were some changes to the final guidelines based on the feedback received. There were also some Tacoma trip leader complaints that were sent directly to Tom Vogl.
 - ii. DRAFT Phase 3 guidelines have just come out and Curtis distributed those via activity committee chairs for comment as well. No feedback received to date.
 - b. Bikepacking Activity Committee.
 - i. Curtis presented the Bikepacking activity proposal to the Branch Leadership Committee (BLC) last night. It was favorably received for the most part. Only significant comments on the draft club-wide standards were that there seem to be too many pacing options.
 - ii. Did not receive any comments on the DRAFT Committee charter. There were a few sections that Curtis thought he had removed that were in the circulated draft. Scott indicated that a treasurer position was not needed and don't need to deal with proxies. Curtis will modify and resend.
 - iii. BLC process is that the proposal is presented at one meeting and then voted on at the next. BLC does not meet again until August 19. We can review/approve charter changes at our August 6 meeting, prior to the next BLC meeting.
 - c. Division & Committee Chair Assignments.
 - i. Climbing Chair. Marty's passing last weekend (6/13) was a big shock. Succession plan had been to have Marty co-chair with Harley next year, so he



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- could mentor through a year. Intermediate program is still gaining stability right now. Curtis will weigh a few options as to how best to proceed.
- ii. First Aid. John Dinh. Curtis had talked with Marty just a week ago about transitioning First Aid from Nick Wilson. Curtis will follow up on this possibility.
 - iii. Stewardship & Conservation. Curtis had an interview with Melanie Freshwaters and Margot Tsakonas on Tuesday. She is interested in the role but not sure yet about making a commitment.
 - iv. Navigation. Kevin DeFields does not really want to chair this committee. Curtis is looking for a new chair. Scott recommends considering Dan Casady. Curtis will follow up.
- d. Branch Activity Committee Governance. After the last council meeting Scott sent the draft boilerplate guidelines to the Outdoor division. Proposal is to add the boilerplate guidelines to the Procedures section of the Redbook. Committees can still put together their own charter but without a specific committee charter the boilerplate will govern.
 - e. Branch Awards Dinner/Volunteer Recognition/Graduation Recognition. With the cancelation of many courses this year it is not clear if/how individual committees with hold recognition. It might be a good time to have a branch-wide gathering, possibly in early November. COVID-19 restrictions could be a factor. Curtis will send out an inquiry to committee chairs.
 - f. BOD Reports. Mark gave a synopsis of the last Board of Directors meeting. Much information relayed about COVID-19 and the financial health of the organization. Most of the staff will be on rolling furloughs for the rest of the summer, so expect only about half-staffing. Assume Sarah will be furloughed but don't know dates yet. Curtis will try to find out.
- V. The council adjourned at 8:02 for executive session.
- VI. The council reconvened in regular session at 8:16.
- a. 2021 Budget Development. Earlier in the year the decision was made to just project out the 2020 budget for 2021, since the outlook for fiscal 2021 was difficult to see. Over the last couple of weeks the BLC and staff have asked if branches could make some estimates to help with the budget process. They would like inputs by the end of the month. Curtis and Harley will send out materials to the activity committee chairs.
 - b. Council Priorities/Goals. Curtis laid out some of his goals for the branch
 - i. Trip Leader Development. One recurring complaint from members is that there are not enough trips offered. More trip leaders should equate to more trips being offered. Curtis had hoped to have some stats about current trip leaders available for tonight. He will distribute to the council members.
 - ii. Intra-branch Communications. Curtis is trying to find the right mix of communication methods and recipients to balance between too much/too little. Many communications have gone to committee chairs, for further distribution by the chairs, such as COVID-19 open forums and COVID-19 DRAFT guidelines. Don't know that this process is working effectively. The monthly newsletter is another method. Still a work in progress.
 - iii. Diversity, Equality & Inclusion. Curtis attended a DEI seminar last summer that was very helpful as a trip leader to discover ways to make participants feel



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- comfortable and valued on trips. Also looking for ways to provide role models besides white males.
- c. Succession Planning. Curtis went through an initial review of current council and committee leaders and any known succession plans. Curtis can distribute.
 - d. Elections – October. Typically have elections in October, with roles effective in November. Curtis has talked briefly with Sarah about how that process works. Would typically circulate nominees in September, with a draft slate in August.
 - i. Council Membership. Scott and Lisa – currently appointed to vacant positions. Could run for 1 year or 2 year elected terms. Scott indicated 2 years.
 - ii. Nominations Committee. Bylaws provide for a nominations committee to fill vacant council roles. Curtis will look into forming one.
 - iii. Bylaws changes. Curtis introduced two proposed bylaws changes. These require a vote of the membership. 1) change in council meeting quorum (to comply with Roberts Rules of Order); 2) provision to allow virtual teleconference meetings.
 - e. Celebrations and Announcements. Scott is going out this weekend to bag two more of the Rainier 100.
- VII. Action items. We reviewed the action items from the last meeting.
- a. Form a sub-committee for Third Thursdays and general outreach. This will be deferred until we have constructed a master calendar for Tacoma Branch course starts, so that the public outreach can feed into upcoming course opportunities. No update (Natalia)
 - b. Inquire about the Peak Pins and other recognition programs. Curtis talked with Curt Baxstrom and he is still interested in running this program. DONE
 - c. Set up Basecamp account for branch council. Natalia set up a Google Docs account for council use. DONE
 - d. Provide an overview on funding flows and budget. Curtis is still working on this. In progress. (Curtis)
 - e. Propose dinner with Tom Vogl on or after April 18. Deferred until in-person gathering suspension is lifted. (Curtis)
 - f. Develop a master calendar of branch courses – when they start and how long they run. No update. (Natalia)
 - g. Provide registration links to all committee chairs for May 13 Leaders' meeting. DONE
 - h. Investigate possibility of branch Zoom account. The branch now has access to a Mountaineers volunteer ZOOM account. It is not exclusive for Tacoma branch but is available for use. Curtis will send details. (Curtis)
 - i. Investigate any organizational requirements for forming mountain biking activity committee. DONE
 - j. Distribute boilerplate committee governance guidelines to Outdoors Division. DONE
 - k. Backcountry Skiing Course development. Per Scott, this is in the works. Karl, Clint and Meredith are also working on this. (Scott)
 - l. Climbing chair succession. (Curtis)
 - m. Rework BIKEPACKING committee charter and distribute for review prior to August 6 meeting. (Curtis)
 - n. Follow up on possible activity chair assignments. (Curtis)



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- o. Draft a communique to committee chairs about a possible awards dinner for November. (Curtis)
 - p. Find out about Sarah furlough dates. (Curtis)
 - q. Send out budget inputs to committee chairs. (Curtis)
 - r. Send out succession planning spreadsheet. (Curtis)
 - s. Form nominations committee. (Curtis)
 - t. Send Google account details to Steve. (Curtis)
 - u. Send Zoom account details to council members. (Curtis)
- VIII. Good of the Order. Steve reflected on his attempt to get engagement from committee chairs on safety issues – not much luck. He would like to regroup and try something different – maybe communicating directly with trip leaders or some other way of connecting.
- IX. Next meeting dates: Thursday, August 6, Thursday, September 17, Thursday, November 5, Thursday, December 17.
- X. The meeting was adjourned at 9:08pm.

Submitted by:
Curtis Stock