



Tacoma Branch Council Meeting

September 17, 2020 7:00-8:30 pm

Virtual Meeting

Meeting Minutes

- I. CALL TO ORDER. The virtual meeting was called to order at 7:14 pm by Chair Curtis Stock via Zoom. Members present: Carolyn Edmonds, Harley Sandoval, Lisa Hyak, Mark Kerr, Scott Schissel, Natalia Martinez-Paz
- II. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS. No new members or guests present.
- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES. The August 6, 2020, Meeting Minutes were approved as submitted by acclimation.
- IV. INFORMATIONAL AND DISCUSSION ITEMS
 - a. COVID-19 – Revised Guidelines (9/3/20). Curtis reported that new revised guidelines had recently been distributed. No feedback, good or bad received from branch members. The new guidelines seem more streamlined and less prescriptive. Harley spoke to applicability to ice clinic. Disappointed only 3 people signed up. Curtis talked about Headquarters looking at different ways to structure classes - perhaps smaller groups and more outside activities. Suggestions welcome.
 - b. Bikepacking Activity Committee – Standards Approval. The new Bikepacking standards were approved by Branch Leadership Committee. Some activity underway from the back office support staff regarding organizing and planning, developing badge designs, etc. Partnerships being established with Evergreen Mountain Bike organization. Kudos to Scott for hard work to get this committee established as well as Shawn Raybell. First class tentatively set for October. Minimum equipment required and course cost to be determined. Class will comply with the COVID standard.

Tentative Bikepacking Summit Date. Request from BLC to host a summit open to other branches in about 6 months, as we are the only Branch with this activity. Curtis will choose a date.
 - c. Division & Committee Chair Assignments – Curtis
 - i. Climbing Division Chair. Still open. Curtis has contacted several individuals and so far has been unable to find someone who will take on the entire responsibility. Some are willing to co-chair. Curtis will look at this model. Goal is to have a new chair in place before Climbing Summit in October.
 - ii. First Aid. John Dinh confirmed as new chair. Hand off process is still in discussion. Looking at virtual hybrid model for classes that RMI has developed.
 - iii. Stewardship & Conservation - Curtis has interviewed a couple of people. So far no one has been willing to take on the whole responsibility for the committee.



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- d. Branch Awards Dinner/Volunteer Recognition/Graduation Recognition. Curtis sent a survey to all committee chairs regarding preferences about holding some kind of virtual event or not. A few responses have been received to date. At end of month Curtis will tabulate results and report to the council.

Branch Service Award was described by Lisa. It is awarded for service above and beyond the norm. Curtis asked committee chairs for nominations. Curtis proposes having a mini committee to review nominations and select awardee. Lisa agreed to chair the selection committee. Other possible members are past award winners. Mark offered to serve if needed.

Due to the current budget constraints the branch will be unable to give any gifts or awards that involve money. Highly recommend personal Thank You cards for individuals who volunteer to run our programs and trips. Headquarters staff will put together a bulk thank you card order for branch distribution.

- e. 2021 Budget2021. The budget input we provided in July has been reviewed and revised. The final budget review is planned by the BoD Finance Committee at its September 28 meeting and will be approved by the BOD at the October 15 meeting. Current budget estimates for courses assumes that we will be in Phase 3 during the instructional periods. No branch budget items for bikepacking or backcountry skiing since those are new courses.
- f. Irish Cabin Memorandum of Understanding with Park Service. Curtis reviewed our long time understanding the Park Service that they can use our Irish Cabin property for staging in search & rescue and other emergencies. They keep a look out for issues at the property. Due to recent events we determined that a formal agreement is needed Geoff Lawrence is taking the lead for developing a formal MOU with the MRNP/Park Service, which will be ultimately signed by the Mountaineers CEO Tom Vogl.
- g. Carbon River Corridor Planning Survey. There is a large list of stakeholders in this effort to develop a long-term strategy for development and conservation in this corridor between the Carbon River entrance to Mount Rainier National Park and Highway 410. The goal is to make the area more available for use but also enable active conservation efforts. There is an open public stakeholders survey. Margo Tsakonas and Sarah Holt have some interest in participating. If anyone else is interested contact Curtis.
- h. *The Mountaineers Tree* signage in Point Defiance Park, Tacoma. Apparently the branch dedicated a tree in Point Defiance Park sometime circa 1940. There is a small plaque placed in 2011 that describes the conservation efforts of the Tacoma Mountaineers. Revised signage that reflects Mountaineers current philosophies is needed. We will work with Metro Parks on updated signage.

- V. EXECUTIVE SESSION. The council adjourned the regular meeting at 7:55 pm.



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- VI. RESUME REGULAR SESSION. The regular meeting was resumed at 7:56 pm.
- VII. – INFORMATIONAL AND DISCUSSION ITEMS
- a. Branch Elections. In October. Sarah will take care of emailing the voting link to members. By-Law amendments will be included. One officer and 3 at large positions are open.
 - b. Banff Film Festival 2020. Curtis has been in conversation with Mindy Roberts, our branch organizer for this event. This year will be a virtual event. Because of this festival staff will not be on site as in the past. A suggestion has been made to combine the Seattle, Tacoma & Olympia events since location will not be a factor. Initial response from Mindy is to not combine events. While there is some value in having a single effort for advertising and support, we also need to figure out what works with our local partners as our priority.
 - c. Council Priorities/Goals – Curtis
 - i. Trip Leader Development - Curtis provided chart with committee data regarding number of leaders & members of committee, membership/leadership status, and percentage of female leaders. There is duplication in the data as someone could be a leader in more than one committee but it does give a rough idea of the number of leaders in each of the activities. The big question is whether or not we have enough leaders to meet the activity demands of our members. Conclusion - rosters are not up to date (i.e. expired leadership status). Other data available in the rosters include the last time a leader led an event. The council discussed how to use this data. Suggestions for use included: personal mentorship, structured path to leaders, strategies for overcoming members reluctance; use Assistant Leader position; leadership interest/orientation seminar; informal group discussions with interested participants.
 - ii. Diversity, Equality & Inclusion. Over last 6 months Curtis has heard from folks in the branch with interest in forming a DEI committee. Natalia strongly encourage pursuing a local DEI committee. Board level goal is to help branches establish local committees. We would need a charter & interested people – the process is the same as forming any committee in the branch. Natalia suggested connecting branch interested folks to her and she will get connected with resources.
 - d. Board of Directors Meeting Report. Mark provided an update from the recent BOD meeting. Curtis has a copy of the minutes. A Proposal that the committee of Conservation and Advocacy be a standing committee was approved. 11 at large positions were approved for inclusion in upcoming elections. Other interested people are encouraged to apply. There were in-depth budget discussions and an outline of



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Finance committee final reviews of the 2021 budget. COVID has had significant effect on income. Staff will be releasing a statement regarding the re-naming of climbing routes with inappropriate names.

e. Calendar/Meeting Dates

- i. Curtis proposed the following 2021 Council Meetings: January 28, March 4, April 8, May 20, June 24, August 5, September 16, October 28, December 2. Curtis is expecting virtual meetings for the immediate future. Technically we could have in-person meeting at the program center with masks & social distancing and limit to 8 people. We will continue to provide the capability to join virtually even when in-person meetings resume. With no objections Curtis will add these dates to the Tacoma Branch calendar.

VIII. CELEBRATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

- a. - Scott & Bikepacking Committee – approval of the new Bikepacking standards.
- b. . Lisa - a few graduates from the first Conditioning Hiking Series. Graduation celebration will be November 10 and will be virtual.

IX. ACTION ITEMS

- a. Form a sub-committee for Third Thursdays and general outreach – Natalia - in process
- b. Provide an overview on funding flows and budget – Curtis - in process
- c. Propose dinner with Tom Vogl on or after April 18 -- Curtis - on hold
- d. Develop a master calendar of branch courses – when they start and how long they run – Natalia - on hold
- e. Backcountry Skiing Course development. – Scott - almost done. ready to go this winter.
- f. Climbing chair succession. -- Curtis - in process
- g. Follow up on possible activity chair assignments. -- Curtis - filled 1 and 1 open
- h. Draft a communique to committee chairs about a possible awards dinner for November. -- Curtis - went out. collecting responses.
- i. Form nominations committee. -- Curtis - may not need one. Have enough folks running.

X. GOOD OF THE ORDER. Nothing reported

XI. NEXT MEETING DATES – November 5, December 17 (tent.)

XII. CALL TO ADJOURN - 8:56

Submitted by:

Carolyn Edmonds
Branch Secretary