



# Tacoma Branch Council Meeting

January 28, 2021 7:00-8:30 pm

Virtual Meeting

## MEETING MINUTES

- I. CALL TO ORDER. Chair Curtis Stock called the meeting to order at 7:09pm. Members Present: Curtis Stock, Chair; Carolyn Edmonds, Secretary; Harley Sandoval, Treasurer; Lisa Hayek, Scott Schissel, Natalia Martinez-Paz, Steve Knowles, Marc Heinzman Members-At-Large.
- II. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS
  - a. Welcome new members Marc Heinzman & Steve Knowles. Both introduced themselves.
- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
  - a. The Minutes of the November 5, 2020, meeting were approved as read by acclamation.
- IV. INFORMATIONAL AND DISCUSSION ITEMS
  - a. Division & Committee Chair Assignments – Curtis reported
    - i. Climbing Division Chair vacant. An idea was pursued to have a Co-Chair or Co-Chairs situation. Curtis gathered a group to plan classes and manage the committee. At the end of the climbing season, we will regroup.
    - ii. Stewardship & Conservation – Meeting 1/11/21. Curtis attended a meeting with interested folks. Several people were interested but no one wanted to be Chair. For time being the group will act as joint Chairs. Some discussion regarding the Stewardship requirement for course graduation. Consensus is flexibility is needed and decisions are up to the Activity Committee Chairs
  - b. 2021 Budget – Curtis will send out an updated budget to Council. He sent a Budget to Committee Chairs in Dec. Feedback, as expected, included typeface too small to read. Curtis plans to revisit course participation numbers as they are integral to our income. Committee Chairs are the source of projections for course participation. The Mountaineers Finance Dept. crunches the projected income and expenses.
  - c. Governance Dashboard -- Curtis had no changes this month. Next month we will discuss developing a standard set of operating procedures.
  - d. Activity Councils -- Curtis introduced this subject as a new way of managing cross branch meetings on specific activities. Activity Councils provide a mechanism for making changes to course requirements and procedures. The challenge is there is no centralized leadership for the summits. Staff support is provided by the Mountaineers office. Curtis held a discussion with Committee Chairs and found consensus agreement with how the summits are currently managed. Further discussion with Council concurred with current management of face-to-face summits. Council members felt The ZOOM platform did not work. Having a Volunteer leader would be too burdensome for the volunteer.



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- e. Board of Directors Meeting Summary -- Mark sent Curtis an update. Curtis was unable to review. He will send to Council members.
  - f. Memorandum of Understanding with Park Service regarding use of Irish Cabin in Mt. Rainier Park. Curtis reviewed draft MOA. Current status of MOA is In Progress.
  - g. *The Mountaineers Tree* signage in Point Defiance Park, Tacoma – Curtis/Natalia. No progress. Natalia will follow up with Christine.
  - h. Tacoma Program Center Maintenance
    - i. New Gate Lock - lock found broken. Needs to be replaced. Referred to Branch Chair for follow up.
    - ii. Programmable Lock Replacement. Programmable lock stopped working. Can still open the door with a key. Referred to Branch Chair. for follow up.
  - i. Council Priorities/Goals – Curtis
    - i. Trip Leader Development - Transition to New Leader Pathway delayed until later this year. Curtis plans to reach out to participants and facilitate completion of the program.
      - 1. Review Trip Leader Data - no update.
    - ii. Diversity, Equality & Inclusion - Last fall there was discussion regarding having a DEI Committee in the Branch. So far no one has come forward to lead. Would be set up as any other activity but without the same level of procedures. The Mountaineers DE&I Committee is working on a guide for Branches to establish their own committee.
  - j. Calendar/Meeting Dates - Curtis sent to Council a copy of 2021 dates for Council meetings, Board of Directors Meeting and other meetings.
    - i. Summit Dates - 4 scheduled. They are Included on the meetings list Curtis sent out.
  - k. Curtis asked Steve Knowles to tell us about the Safety Committee. They are currently trying to develop best practices for incident reports. Discussions also included outreach especially with regard to best practices and the lack of a feedback loop between reports and activity leaders. Council discussed the “gap” between safety criteria/risk management and activity leadership. What tools and/or strategies are available (ie GAR; use Hiking and Backpacking curriculum as a model; develop a safety checklist) was discussed.
- V. CELEBRATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS – CELEBRATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS-  
Congratulations to Scott Schissel for the 2020 Volunteer of the Year Award winner. Scott Schissel reported that Snowshoe has great sign-ups! Curtis reported the first Avalanche Course



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was completed. Good feedback. Next course is sold out. Lisa reported that the Hiking Conditioning series registration opened Jan 15. Same day was full. The Backpacking Course opened with 18 signed up.

### VI. ACTION ITEMS

- a. Form a sub-committee for Third Thursdays and general outreach – Natalia.
- b. Provide an overview on funding flows and budget – Done.
- c. Propose dinner with Tom Vogl - Curtis
- d. Develop a master calendar of branch courses – when they start and how long they run – Natalia.
- e. Backcountry Skiing Course development. – Done
- f. Climbing chair succession. -- Curtis
- g. Follow up on possible activity chair assignments. -- Curtis
- h. Confirm Bikepacking summit date – Done

### VII. GOOD OF THE ORDER. No items.

### VIII. NEXT MEETING DATES – March 4, April 8, May 20, June 24, August 5, September 16, October 28, December 2.

### IX. CALL TO ADJOURN at 8:27.