



Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

August 15, 2024

Location: Zoom Conference

Unofficial Summary

- Approved March 2024 and May 2024 minutes
- Approved the list of nominees for the directors-at-large positions

Attendance

Officers

Manisha Powar President

Rich Draves Vice President

Paul Stevenson Treasurer

Vanessa Wheeler Secretary

Roger Mellem VP of Governance

Mark Kerr VP of Outdoor Centers

Gabe Aeschliman Past President

Directors at Large

Serene Chen Dave Foong

Brynne Koscianski

Takeo Kuraishi

Maya Magarati

Alex Pratt

Carry Porter

Samantha Sanders

Mark Walters

Anita Wilkins

Siana Wong

Branch Directors

Liz McNett Crowl Foothills Branch Director

Mark Goodro Kitsap Branch Director

Ramki Pitchuiyer Everett Branch Director

Mike Riley Olympia Branch Director

Tim Schafermeyer Bellingham Branch Director

Non-Voting Board Members*

Board Members Absent

Amanda Piro VP of Branches

Brad Near Seattle Branch Director

James Henderson Director at Large

Robert White Director at Large

Katie Strauz-Clark Youth Representative

Staff*

Tom Vogl CEO

Tom Helleberg Publisher

Brianne Vanderlinden Director of Community Engagement

Rich Heine Director of Finance & Administration

Betsy Robblee Director of Conservation & Advocacy

Jackson Gutierrez Development Officer

Alfe Wood Development Officer

Arina Abbott Associate Director of Operations

Becca Polglase Director of Programs & Operations

Guests*

Helen Cherullo Executive Director, Braided River

*non-voting attendees

Minutes

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Board President Manisha Powar. Manisha did introductions to two new staff members (Jackson Gutierrez (present) and Hannah Abebe (not present)). She also thanked Bri for her long-time dedication to the Mountaineers as she departs her position. And Becca introduced Irena.

President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Past President, VP of Governance, VP of Branches, and VP of Outdoor Centers were in attendance. 23 of 28 voting Board members were present. A quorum was established and was maintained throughout the meeting.

Agenda

Manisha Powar shared the meeting agenda.

Consent Agenda

Manisha shared the consent agenda:

- ★ Carry Porter moved to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded and passed without objection.

Committee and Staff Reports

Executive Committee: Tom provided an update on two actions that the EC took at its last meeting: (1) \$25k for site planning at the Kitsap Forest Theater, which was funded out of the Lea Bequest and (2) \$20k for roof repairs at the Seattle Program Center. The roof repair is a modest repair to try to hold us over for another 10 years or so.

Finance: Rich Heine and Tom Helleberg presented regarding the FY24 year to date financials, through June 2024, as well as specifically Spendable Resource Classifications. Revenues and contributions are ahead of budget and what we had last year, and expenses are lower than planned, but higher than last year. We have a positive budget variance of \$488k. Tom H presented on Mountaineers books through this year. Sales numbers are down this year, due to continued weakness with the outdoor retail area (like REI), and printing and freight costs are significantly up. The Finance Committee is working on how to come up with parameters to make sure we never go too far in the negative on any of the categories.

Development: Brianne Vanderlinden discussed board engagement and provided a recap on development results from individual giving program, bequests, Spring Appeal and the 2024 Annual Gala. Brianne also introduced TJ King as the new Development Committee Chair.

Governance: Roger Mellum presented on the annual open nominations process and known potential candidates for open at-large director roles.

Old Business

Topic: Becca Polglase and Carry Porter presented an update on the SHSA Prevention Advisory Committee, which is very close to finalizing its committee report. It's been drafted and has pretty substantial sections on the background of the committee and its reason for creation, foundational beliefs, key elements necessary to make any efforts to reduce the risks of SH/SA successful, and a phased plan for implementation. The committee is finishing up word-smithing the report this week and then will start circulating a confidential draft to key leadership and start meeting with branch leadership on the topic.

Topic: Roger Mellem gave a brief update on the long discussions our executive/governance committee had regarding how to ensure that Braided River mark remains consistent with the Mountaineers vision, including maintaining the strong relationship with them so that things are not dependent on who is in charge.

New Business

Topic: Roger Mellem presented on the fall nominees for the director-at-large positions. Tom noted those that have agreed to run for a second term (Serene Chen, Alex Pratt, Takeo Kuraishi, and Anita Wilkins), those that need to stand for election, having been appointed (James Henderson, Carry Porter) and one nominee for the at-large position opening up due to term limit (Ramki Pitchuiyer).

- Mark Kerr moved to approve the list of nominees for the directors-at-large positions. It was seconded and passed without objection.

Topic: Tom Vogl took over for Rich Heine (who had to leave due to feeling ill) and presented on upcoming insurance coverage changes for the 2025 policy renewal. The Mountaineers got its new insurance policy in place back in April, but the cost increase was extreme and the committee was looking to reasonably mitigate that cost increase next year. FY25 is a 40% increase over FY24, which was already a 30% increase over FY23. We are looking to reduce our general liability, sexual harassment, and property, and to raise our deductible.

Topic: Brianne Vanderlinden and Becca Polglase presented an update on the upcoming Adventure with Purpose Engage topic. Engage has 3 goals: cultivating culture of equity and belong; lifelong connection to the outdoors for youth; culture of giving back. Mountaineers has also changed "Seattle and Tacoma Leadership Conference" to "North Sound Leadership Conference" and "South Sound Leadership Conference". Also, resident camps have been very successful. Launched the development committee and welcomed a new chair. The Mountaineers had an incredible gala and raised \$650k. The new Ridgeline tier membership is not getting as much engagement as they hoped, but is gaining some traction lately.

Announcements

- Sept 10 | End of Summer Gear Grab
- Sept 23 | Freedom10 Kickoff Party
- Sept 26 | Freedom10 Deep Dive
- Oct 9 | An Evening of Advocacy

Mountaineers Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
August 15, 2024

Oct 10 | MountainFilm On Tour Seattle
Oct 19 | Ian Cox Memorial Dick's-A-Thon
Oct | Donor Thank you Cards
Nov | Member Thank You Phone Calls

Good of the Order

None.

Adjournment

Ramki Pitchuiyer moved to adjourn. Without objection, Manisha Powar adjourned the meeting at 7:48 pm.

Submitted by Vanessa Wheeler, Board Secretary

Approved by The Mountaineers Board of Directors on October 17, 2024