

Bellingham Mountaineers Branch Committee Meeting Minutes - Approved

Date/Time: April 15, 2023 6:00 PM

Location: Zoom

Attending: Tim S, AJ S, Nathan R, Krista S, Meredith L, Ben H, James P

Welcome/Introductions:

- Reminder that meeting is open and public; be respectful and concise
- Intros
- Agenda review
- [Meeting minutes from last meeting approved](#) Tim motions to approve, Ben second
6:10pm

Updates

- Branch Chair (AJ Schuehle) - Still looking for branch chair elect. Deferring remaining updates to the old business section.
- Secretary (Dana) - not present
- Climbing Committee (Varun) - Tim standing in. Small party rock rescue part 2 for Int this weekend. Split into two groups to make the most of the time. Climbing committee will be considering doing this moving forward. Basic course held rock 1 this past weekend. Crag course - Eric H has a few last items to complete before posting the course. Looking for assistants, has some folks in mind. Official dates for the course have not been released.
- Hiking Committee (Hiking, Uphill Training Series) (Ben) - Uphill training series ongoing. Hike headcount has decreased over time, as expected, to a manageable level. Some of the basic course students have been organizing their own hikes.
- Communications (Cassidy) - Gear swap was lower attended than previous years, may be an indicator that better communication is needed. AJ and Cassidy meeting to create committee charter
- Safety (James) - Rock 1 went well. Had a few reported minor close calls from basic students which was much appreciated - rock fall and dropped belay device. Climbing committee and course leadership made aware. Noted an interesting trip report about a student working on a three locker rappel, the student somehow dropped ~10 feet after weighting the anchor on a sit and spin into the rappel. Committee is gathering and documenting lessons learned.
- Diversity, Equality, & Inclusion (Meredith) - Connected with new climbers of color coordinator, meeting next week with rep from Vital. Ladies/non-binary climbing events at Mt. Erie - working with climbing committee. Question is if this is offered, is an equivalent opportunity needed for other genders? HQ DEI committee meeting every other month now.
- Board of Directors (Tim Schafermeyer) - Gala held, record breaking fundraising!
- Treasurer (Krista) - nothing for the committee. New ropes purchased and in the gear

locker, along with two grigri's and some other items (\$1500 spent and approved)

- Code of Conduct Committee (James/Dana) - Trying to figure out time for our next meeting. Have not heard from HQ regarding a formal meeting with the SHSA committee.

Old Business (next steps/follow up)

- Status of open positions: Branch Chair Elect
- [Branch Charter](#)
- Update on Trail Running (Alanna) - Needs two mentored trail runs to become a leader. AJ to continue discussion with her regarding other steps (Is a committee required? Will she be doing front or back country?)
- Crag course and climbs update (Varun) -
- [Yearly Planning Guide](#) Review (AJ) -
- Branch Committee google groups cleanup project (AJ) -
- Communications Committee Charter project (AJ & Cassidy) -
- Formalize inclusion of E&I Representative on Executive Committee (AJ & Meredith) -

New Business (action/decision needed)

- Ladies/non-binary climbing events at Mt. Erie - working with climbing committee. Question is if this is offered, is an equivalent opportunity needed for other genders? James noted that the trip leader has ultimate discretion about who to accept on their climbs. How do other branches handle something like this? What is the HQ policy?

Action Items:

- Add link to Gala video in the next newsletter - AJ to Cassidy
- Follow up with CoCC committee about meeting with SHSA
- Follow up with Juliana from last year's course regarding possibility of taking on the branch chair elect position.
- AJ to review Yearly Planning Guide and send to greater council
- AJ to work with Cassidy for next events (potluck!)
- AJ to move Stewardship Coordinator role to the branch council, may need to make this position part of the Executive Committee because it touches all activity committees