

Everett Branch Council Meeting Minutes

Everett Branch Committee, January 30, 2024

6:00 p.m. Virtual

Meeting called to order by Nick Mayo, Everett Branch Chair

Participants:

Nick Mayo, Everett Branch Chair
Rodica Manole, Everett Climbing Chair
Christina Youk, Everett Secretary
Lydia Gillis, Vice Chair for the Everett Branch
Barry Hershly, Everett Safety Officer
Matt Surprenant, Scramble Committee Chair
Alexandria Fetzer, Hiking and Backpacking Chair
Michelle Rushworth, EMSK Chair
Robert White, BOD/Everett Treasurer
Beck Clements, First Aid
Sara MacGillivray, Survey Leader
Bernadette Lamarca, Social Committee
Ramki Pitchuiyer, Everett Director
Dan Renfrow, Lookout and Trail Maintenance/Trail Running
Erin Shannon-Starup, Everett LOTM Chair/Foothills TR

Motions

- The Committee approved the meeting minutes from November 28, 2023.
- The Committee approved the Hiking and Backpacking Charter.

Committee Statuses and Updates

Survey Results: Sara MacGillivray is helping with the survey. Forty-two people took the survey. The result of the survey has indicated that 90% of the responders were members of the Everett Branch Mountaineers. Seventy six percent of the survey responders said that they have attended an event hosted by the Everett Branch in the past five years.

When asked about topics of interests during the speaker series, 66% responded they wanted to see “skill-based workshops”, 64% said they wanted to see “How to Seminars”, and 50% said that they wanted to see “Storytelling” like Beta, and Brews, etc.

When asked what time of year you would be most interested in attending an in-person event hosted by the Everett Branch, 33% of the responders said all year, 26% said winter, 21% said fall.

When asked how often you would be interested in attending in-person events hosted by the Everet Branch, 64% of the responders said they would attend once every quarter.

When asked what the preferred method of communication is to be informed about the upcoming events hosted by the Everett Branch, 65% said email, 50% said social media, 31% said newsletter.

The Annual Awards Banquet was the most attended event by the Survey participants. Food and socialization were the most popular reasons people attended the events. When asked what needed to be improved, most responders said, "time." They wanted to see time being used more efficiently. Also, they wanted to see more family activities and events in Everett. Most responders heard about the events via emails, social media, and newsletters.

What is the next step after the survey results? Nick will set up a meeting with Lydia, Sara, and Bernadette within the next two weeks to discuss in-depth the results of the survey and how we get those events on the calendars.

Nick mentioned that he would like to share the results of the survey in the newsletter so that people are aware of it.

Climbing: The basic course kicked off two weeks ago. The first major field trip is coming up on February 17, 2024. There are many volunteers for the class. IGC courses students were selected last week and will announce on Facebook. Intermediate classes announced the participants accepted into the program. Our Basic class size has 40 students and two of them were from last year. Rodica is working with Tim Bliss and Sara from the Program Center to put together a weekend clinic for crack climbing which is most likely to happen in Index.

Hiking and Backpacking: The hiking and backpacking Chair is working on getting the charter approved by the committee, updating the roster for hike leaders, and attending the hike summit. Alex is currently focusing on hiking because she wants to build hike leaders and mentors. Alex is leaving hiking and backpacking temporarily to take care of her mom and hopes to return in May.

Nick thanked Alex for her great work and wished Alex and her mom the best. Nick hoped to see Alex return in the future.

Safety: The larger Committee is working on an accident statistics report for 2023. Once it's done, Barry will share on Basecamp.

First Aid: Eighty students from Everett Climbing and Scrambling have signed up for WFA. The WFA dates are set for April 6, 7, 27 and 28. The class is a hybrid and charges \$150 per student.

EMSK: The Basic Sea Kayaking class starts in April, and we are moving to a new bigger pool while the current pool is under construction. Because we have a bigger pool, we can increase the number of students from 16 to 20 which helps with the finances in 2024. We have eight potential trip leaders identified. We have structure

training set up for them in May and June to help with their basic skills, leadership, and instruction. Michelle set up a trip planning meeting at her house on Wednesday with those who are stepping down to see if they are willing to mentor the new leaders before leaving their current leadership roles.

Stewardship: With LOTM, we have three stewardship events in February. They were filling rapidly with two full and half waitlists. Crew training is running with three mentor trips. Working on WFA subsidy for crew leaders as well as requirements for maintaining crew leadership.

Snowshoes Course: Snowshoes class kicked off on Thursday with 18 students. It took two days to get a Liability Insurance certificate from the Mountaineers for the school district where we teach the class.

Navigation: We got two dates (2/24 and 3/23) from the boy scouts in Monroe. Only 12 students have signed up so far for the class, which is lower than usual.

Scramble Course: We have 14 students signed up so far but will extend the date a bit longer to see if we can get more students to sign up. However, Seattle has some students on the waitlist. Perhaps we can transfer some of those students to Everett.

The lodge is partially booked for the Scramble Class reunion on the first week of August 2024. This will include family events such as hiking, etc. Matt is a qualified Scramble Leader. Matt will update the Scramble charter to reflect correct information.

Garmin InReach give-out to scramble leaders are not successful because a few of them already have their own devices. Nick said that we won't be getting any more of the Garmin InReach, so for those three Garmin InReach that need a home. Perhaps we can give them to a hiking committee new leader, Lookout Crew Maintenance Leader, and Three Fingers Crew Leader.

Treasury Update: Direct Vendor Payment is a direct payment made to the 3rd party without troubling the volunteers' using their credit cards and getting reimbursement later. Please keep in mind that this option is now available and highly encouraged to use it. If you have any questions on how to use it, please contact Robert White.

The Finance Committee reviewed the Midflight and information needs to be updated. A budget update will be provided to the Exec Committee in March 2024 once all the midflight roll up is updated.

Everett Director: The Gala tickets are sold out. The next big push would be virtual tickets to be sold.

Change.org Petition: There is talk about putting in place possibly having Branch E & I Representative at the Branch level interfacing between the membership and the new

Board Committee they are standing up. This is put together because of the change.org petition.

Code of Conduct: Please note the Code of Conduct form is available for use. Please reach out to Nick Mayo if you have any questions regarding the form and/or would like to use it for your committee.

Youth Program: Everett started a Youth Program in 2019 but went away due to COVID. There was talk at the program center about hiring someone to support Youth Programs at other branches. There is a possibility that the board will consider. Nick will find out more about it. Nick will search for youth program leaders in the next newsletter to see if anyone is interested in volunteering leading it because this is one of the highest priorities that Everett Branch is currently focusing on.

Miscellaneous: Just a reminder that Masonic campground requires a person to be a member of the Masonic Campground to reserve a spot. Nick would like to have a phone call with a small group to discuss in depth how we can make this information actionable.

Future Events

- No future events are scheduled at this point.

Next Steps and Meetings

- The next Committee meeting will be held on March 26, 2024.