**April 1, 2020 — Meeting Minutes \*DRAFT\***

**Foothills Branch Council Meeting – April 1, 2020**

**6:30 PM, Zoom meeting**

**Those in Attendance**

Present: Bill Borom (Scramble committee chair), Deloa Darby (Conservation committee chair), Kit Eiber (Backcountry ski committee chair), Danielle Graham (Council member at-large), Lori Heath (Branch secretary), James Henderson (Former branch vice chair), Dick Lambe (Board representative), Travis Prescott (Council member at-large, snowshoe committee chair), Samantha Sanders (trail running committee chair), Cheryl Talbert (Branch Chair), Paul Thomsen (Branch safety officer), Peter Tran (Climbing committee chair), Shyam Vijayaraghavan (Branch treasurer)

**Introductions, Call to order**

* Meeting called to order by Cheryl Talbert at 6:34
* March meeting minutes
  + To be approved offline
* Mountaineers Staff thanks you
  + Requested agenda addition by Danielle Graham

**Ongoing Business**

* 2020 branch financials update, guidance for 2021 budgeting (Shyam)
  + Discussion of 2021 budgeting postponed due to COVID-19 situation. Most likely that 2020 budget will carry forward
  + Mountaineers organization is experiencing financial difficulties and is in the red this month, mainly due to cancellations and refunds due to COVID-19 situation
* Club-level Covid-19 financial plan – Cheryl
  + reviewed [presentation on Foothills Council basecamp .](https://3.basecamp.com/3528906/buckets/15009148/documents/2538484014)
    - COVID-19 response timeline
    - Cash balance trajectory
    - Response strategy
      * Implement creative revenue-generating ideas
      * Limit expenses to essentials
      * Seek liquidity options
* Committee status reports
  + Hiking and backpacking (Cheryl):
    - Keeping B3 ongoing with videos and zoom meetings. Students are staying engaged. Did 2 zoom lectures. Demo day planned for April 25, will move from in-person to video. Pushing out in-person practice camp. In person seminars will be done on-line
    - GoHike had 72 people sign up, most joined Mountaineers to do it. Had in-person orientation in early March. Hikes are on hold. All students are still enrolled.
    - New Hike Leader seminar on zoom tomorrow night (April 2)
  + Climbing (Peter): Didn’t have to cancel any foothills classes. Foothills considering a rock climbing module, possible end of summer/beginning of fall
  + Backcountry Skiing (Kit): most of the core winter programs winding down. Had to cancel glacial travel, which is bulk of revenue for backcountry skiing. Considered trying something online for the class, but doesn’t seem feasible
  + Snowshoeing (Travis): a few refunds for winter camping field trip. No other activities had to be cancelled.
  + Navigation (Travis): field trips deferred until Fall. Digital Navigation class still going on, participation expanded to 60, may expand further
  + Trail running (Sam): front country course pushed back (only 2 spots open, might add more participants); conditioning course cancelled; everything else, including Adventure Wellness Weekend, on schedule. Might do trail running happy hour via facebook. Potential for nutrition on-line seminar.
  + Nordic Skiing (Danielle): Summit at Snoqualmie on hold, will pick up on it over the summer. Danielle encouraged us to check in on members during this stressful time.
  + Board of Directors (Dick): Board trying to pursue donations, online auctions coming to bridge financial shortfall.
  + Conservation (Deloa): Committee activities on hold. Trail head ambassador group continuing to work via zoom meetings.
  + First Aid and Safety (Paul): Things quiet with safety because so many activities are cancelled. April first aid class is cancelled, but June First Aid class is still on the calendar. Concerned about availability of first aid trainers from RMI because most are paramedics and EMTs, who are stretched very thin right now with the COVID-19 response
  + Scrambling (Bill): Some students have withdrawn from the compressed scrambling class with full reimbursements, 14 students are still registered and participated in the online scrambling course seminar. Course field trips are currently on hold.
* Brainstorm creative options to keep members engaged and/or to generate additional revenue for the club
  + Travis mentioned facebook social event with Everett Branch to keep people connected, included trivia game. Suggested that a similar event might help Foothills branch members stay connected. Is also willing to continue work on some on-line classes.
  + Cheryl suggested trying to turn some of Travis’s Alpine Geek podcasts into events.
  + Cheryl will continue hike leader socials as on-line activities. She also suggested mini-seminars on safety-related topics, Paul will give it some thought
  + Group discussion on whether to charge fees for on-line activities or ask for donations. Decided fees are appropriate for educational seminars. Solicit donations for other activities. Encouraged to ask participants to view fees as donation to Mountaineers.
* Branch leadership succession planning (Cheryl)
  + Committee leadership roles coming open in 2021 include
    - Board representative
    - Branch chair/
    - Branch chair elect
  + Nominees for these positions should be reviewed by the Branch Council in June
  + Cheryl requested everyone’s active assistance in seeking candidates for committee and branch leadership. Everyone to send a list of 5-6 potential leaders to Cheryl by the end of April.

**Announcements and Recognition**

* Recognition
  + Danielle recognized Cheryl and Paul for their creative ways to keep the B3 class engaged during the COVID-19 shutdown.
* Upcoming council meetings:
  + June 16, 2020 – Issaquah <https://www.mountaineers.org/locations-lodges/foothills-branch/events/foothills-branch-council-meeting-2>
* Upcoming Cross-Branch Activity Summits:
* April 25, 2020 - [Snowshoeing](https://www.mountaineers.org/locations-lodges/seattle-program-center/events/2020-snowshoe-summit)
* April 26, 2020 - Navigation
* Nov 14, 2020 - [Scrambling](https://www.mountaineers.org/locations-lodges/tacoma-program-center/events/2020-scramble-summit)
* Jan 9, 2021 -  [Hiking/Backpacking](https://www.mountaineers.org/locations-lodges/seattle-program-center/events/2021-hiking-and-backpacking-summit)
* **Summary: Action Items and Requests**
  + Everyone to send a list of 5-6 potential leaders to Cheryl by the end of April.