**January 7, 2020 — Meeting Minutes \*DRAFT\***

**Foothills Branch Council Meeting – January 7, 2020**

**6:30 PM, in-person meeting, Issaquah Town Hall Eagle Room, 130 E Sunset Way, Issaquah, WA 98027**

**Those in Attendance**

Present: Amelia Mafe (guest), Cindy Biles (Chair-Elect), Bill Borom (Scramble Chair), Alan Davey (Navigation co-chair), Kit Eiber (Back-country skiing chair), Danielle Graham (Nordic Skiing chair), Lori Heath (Secretary), Jim Heber (Navigation co-chair), James Henderson (Former Vice Chair), Dick Lambe (Board of Directors Representative), Steve Lebrun (Events Chair), Amelia Mafe (guest), Patti Polinski (Meany Lodge), Travis Prescott (Council member at large/Snowshoe chair), Samantha Sanders (Trail Running Chair), Cheryl Talbert (Branch Chair), Paul Thomsen (Safety Officer), Peter Tran (Climbing chair), Fran Troje (Former Chair), Shyam Vijayaraghavan (Treasurer),

**Issues and Decisions**

* Meeting called to order by Cheryl Talbert at 6:30
* November meeting minutes approved

**Ongoing Business**

* Eastside Program Center – Cheryl
	+ Cheryl presented [slides](https://3.basecamp.com/3528906/buckets/15009148/uploads/2385491088) with background (posted on Base Camp)
	+ According to Tom Vogl (Mountaineers CEO), our proposal stood out because it was a lease/partnership
	+ Cheryl was approached by Seattle Mountain Rescue (SMR) about partnering on property in Issaquah, currently called Mountain Creek Christian fellowship
	+ To cover our portion of the lease, we need to increase our revenue 28% over current plan
	+ Mountaineers Board would have to sign the lease
	+ Cheryl call for input from all Council members present:
		- Paul Thomsen: In favor, can do a lot more 1st aid activities
		- Travis Prescott: Opposed, raised concern about lack of climbing wall. Would like the Council to flesh out what more can be done with the space and estimate how much time will it be idle or used?
		- Steve LeBrun: provisionally in favor, mixed feelings due to revenue demands difficult and remoteness of location but doesn’t think we’ll find anything else more feasible.
		- Dick Lambe: Slightly in favor, this seems to be our only option, perhaps a targeted donation program can help with revenue
		- Shyam Vijayaraghavan: In favor, community space important, suggests looking potential purchase in future
		- Samantha Sanders: In favor, would be beneficial to collect a few more numbers and flesh out volunteer time for maintenance
		- Peter Tran: Declined to comment due to conflict of interest as a member of SMR.
		- Amelia: No comment
		- Jim Heber: In favor, suggested we consider buying it and renting it out, also suggested asking students for contributions at end of course
		- AlanDavey: In favor, thinks this is risky but not having a real “location” or “home” hurts.
		- Fran Troje: Opposed, concerned about increasing cost of classes.
		- Kit Eiber: Opposed, expenses too high.
		- Patti Polinsky: no opinion.
		- Bill Borom: mixed thoughts, likes idea of having a gathering space but concerned about financials and transparency. Does not want to raise price of programs
		- James Henderson: In favor, opportunities are limited given that pressure on commercial will continue to increase and doesn’t think we’ll find better deals in the future.
		- Cynthia Biles: In favor, could provide an opportunity to reach out to more underserved people
		- Danielle Graham: Opposed.
		- Lori Heath: In favor.
	+ Follow-up actions:
		- Cheryl to work with SMR and owner to see how flexible deal can be
		- Committee chairs to think about how space can be used
* Committee and officer updates
	+ Conservation (Deloa, in absentia): “For 2020, The Foothills Conservation Committee has developed a reliable way for our branch's course participants to meet their stewardship requirements. On the second Saturday of each month, we have a stewardship activity scheduled in the Foothills geographic area. These events are in demand and limited to 10 people.
	Further, the Conservation Committee Chair has been on the leadership team that is developing the Trailhead Ambassador's program in collaboration with key Conservation partners and public land managers. This program is club sanctioned and will be rolling out this Spring at key trailheads including Mt. Si, Mailbox Peak and other key locations. The program is patterned after successful programs in the Columbia River Gorge and the Appalachian Trail, and should help relieve some of the key issues that our recreational lands are experiencing. It also gives interested members that have physical challenges a way to continue their conservation volunteering.
	The new Conservation Committee started in March 2019 and ended the year with the completion of the new Garfield Ledges Trail and celebration on National Public Lands Day.
	+ Navigation (Alan): “Wilderness Navigation” winter course starting January 20, workshops end of February. “Staying Found” course starting in May in May, digital trip planning class is posted. Committee is growing and interested in offering evening seminars on navigation topics
	+ Nordic Skiing (Danielle): Methow trails event most clicked on in Dec newsletter. Two more trips planned this winter.
	+ Scrambling (Bill): “Compressed Alpine Scrambling” course starts in March. Class is full.
	+ Backcountry Skiing (Kit): “AAIRE Level 1 Avalanche Safety” course begins 1st week of January, “Backcountry Touring” course starts in late January.
	+ Climbing (Peter): working on deal with Vertical World in Redmond; committee voting on charter and 2021 goals; thinking about advanced classes for 2021 and developing a course progression
	+ Trail Running (Sam): “Introduction to Winter Trail Running” seminar in mid-January; new conditioning trail running series starts in May, with registration opening mid-February; trying to make another go on adventure wellness weekend in June
	+ Events (Steve): Backcountry Film Festival in late January, ticket sales are low.
	+ Snowshoeing (Travis): “Intermediate Snowshoeing” course starting mid-January; “Winter Camping” course starting late February; “Basic Snowshoeing” course complete; several snowshoe leaders are in the pipeline
	+ First Aid and Safety (Paul): Minor safety incident this past weekend. “Wilderness First Aid” courses in April and October
	+ Hiking and Backpacking (Cheryl): “Backpacking Building Blocks” opens for registration Jan 15; starting 2 new programs, (1) hiking with kids and (2) Beginner hiking series called GoHike; need help with both of new programs
* Treasurer report:
	+ Revenue info posted to [base camp](https://3.basecamp.com/3528906/buckets/15009148/messages/2315085351)
	+ Finance committee meeting at end of month

**New Business**

* Brainstorming Session for increasing Participation Diversity – Cindy Biles
	+ What does growth mean to you?
		- Having more of a sense of community
		- Broader base of volunteers
	+ Strengths of foothills:
		- Lots of new committees over last 3 years, brought lots of new courses and innovative programs
	+ Ways to grow club:
		- Foothills has twice as many families as Seattle, we should tap into kids programs
		- There is a stereotype that the Mountaineers are “too intense” for many people, need to offer more basic programs and activities so people feel more comfortable participating
	+ Discussed ways to re-direct people to other committee activities? If you enjoyed this, you might want to try this
* Avoiding Volunteer and Mountaineers Liability on Private Trips – Cheryl
	+ There are a variety of ways we can create liability for ourselves or the club, most likely coming from an insurance
	+ Try not to create “mountaineers connection” with private events.
	+ Students and activity participants must sign mountaineers waiver
* Definitions and expectations around problem behavior – Cheryl
	+ Don’t have time for this. Will cover at next session.

**Announcements and Recognition**

* Announcements
* City of Bellevue ‘free room’ requests for May-August are due February 1. Please submit to Lori no later than Jan 20 so that we have time to reconcile any conflicts!
* Upcoming council meetings:
	+ March 3, 2020 – Issaquah <https://www.mountaineers.org/locations-lodges/foothills-branch/events/foothills-branch-council-meeting-1>
	+ April 1, 2020 – Issaquah <https://www.mountaineers.org/locations-lodges/foothills-branch/events/foothills-branch-council-meeting-3>
	+ June 16, 2020 – Issaquah <https://www.mountaineers.org/locations-lodges/foothills-branch/events/foothills-branch-council-meeting-2>
* Upcoming Cross-Branch Activity Summits:
* January 11, 2020 - [Hiking & Backpacking](https://www.mountaineers.org/locations-lodges/tacoma-program-center/events/2020-hiking-and-backpacking-summit)
* February 1, 2020 - [Sea Kayaking](https://www.mountaineers.org/locations-lodges/tacoma-program-center/events/2020-sea-kayaking-summit)
* April 25, 2020 - [Snowshoeing](https://www.mountaineers.org/locations-lodges/seattle-program-center/events/2020-snowshoe-summit)
* Recognition
	+ Peter Tran recognized Travis Prescott and Bill Borom for advice in establishing the Climbing Committee
	+ Cheryl Talbert recognized James Henderson for his efforts regarding a Foothills Program Center
	+ James Henderson recognized all Branch Council members for the bylaws review
	+ Cheryl Talbert recognized Alan Davey for developing the Navigation Course
* **Summary: Action Items and Requests**
	+ Cheryl will send class pricing guidelines to Jim Heber
	+ Cheryl to send out Zoom login information.
	+ Cheryl to work with SMR and Mountain Creek Christian Fellowship owner to see how flexible they can be regarding the potential Foothills Program Center
	+ Committee chairs to think about how the Foothills Program Center space can be put to good use