Kitsap Mountaineers Executive Committee
August 27, 2020 Quarterly Meeting Minutes

In Attendance: Bill Bandrowski, Branch Chair; Debbee Lynn, Vice-Chair/Treasurer, Christine Grenier, Secretary, Hiking Co-Chair; Jerry Logan, Board of Directors.

Also present were: Larry Walker, Climbing & Scrambling; Suzy Diesen, Scrambling Chair; Mark Goodro, Climbing; Jeff McKay, Hiking Co-Chair; Chase Gruszewski, Climbing; Mike Harlow, Climbing; Tom Finley, Facilities & Equipment ; and Special Guest Nicolette Burtis, U.S. Forest Service Youth & Community Engagement Resource Assistant.

The following Board Members were absent: Ciara Sampaio, Trustee at Large; David Burton, Trustee At Large.

Virtual Meeting (via Zoom) was convened at 6:30 PM.

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Bill reviewed the highlights of the meeting minutes; and the May 14, 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes were approved unanimously.

1. Special Guest Nicolette Burtis asked for input from branch leadership so the Forest Service can develop an outreach strategy, including how to meet the needs of the outdoor recreation community, and to also recognize groups like the Mountaineers for their contributions. Topics included: how to communicate to trip leaders (especially new ones) about permit and pass requirements; receive current trail and forest road conditions reports; consider the need for trailhead maintenance and road signage replacement; emphasize importance to general users “leave no trace” and 10 essentials.

Ms. Burtis announced that Saturday, September 26 is National Public Lands Day and there will likely be work parties scheduled. Any feedback or comments can be sent to nicolette.burtis@usda.gov or (971) 719-9862.

1. Bill announced that COVID guidance was updated yesterday which allows leaders to gauge their risk tolerance and prior restrictions such as age and home-county, have been removed. Jerry added that this also removed the distance from trailhead but that group size is still limited to 8 people.
2. Bill provided a summary of the State of the Mountaineers which included that the budget is on track and the fundraiser (Annual Virtual Gala) was very successful.
3. Jerry provided a Board Report which included the impact from COVID on program expenses; Gala events held in April and July raised over $450,000; to reel in club-wide expenses, Mountaineers staff salaries are being limited through program support cuts and furloughs; lectures are being moved online to keep connected with members safely and to continue generated revenue; and the club’s cash basis looks good going into 2021. Other announcements included the lawsuit with the KEDA Legacy Foundation has been bumped to next year; and there will be a special online event featuring Climber Conrad Ancker on Thursday, September 24. Bill asked if the club will be tapping into the Capital Projects Fund to help the General Fund should a shortfall happen. Jerry responded that so far it does not look like we will have to do that, but there is about $2.8 million in the Capital Fund if needed.
4. Social/Event Programming has, been delayed due to summer weather but with fall on its way, there should be an uptick on planning and scheduling creative online events and classes. With COVID continuing, Kitsap will need to think of options for its membership to stay connected.
5. Bill announced the following possible officers for 2021:

Debbee Lynn (Branch Chair; Christine Grenier (Secretary); Bill Bandrowski (Treasurer); and Jerry Logan (Board Rep). Vice-Chair and At-Large positions would need to be filled. The change-over would happen in October.

1. It will be challenging with COVID restrictions on group gatherings, but a Virtual Annual Meeting/Open House on Saturday, October 17 could be done. Other options/ideas were discussed like including a guest speaker (Bill); using a facility or Program Center (Chase); an outdoor meeting at the Forest Theatre (Suzy); getting solid commitments for attendees, possibly offering door prizes (Jeff). Also, students/graduates and new leaders could be recognized (Mark and Christine); and a State of the Mountaineers could be included (Larry).
2. Bill announced that volunteers are needed to paint the logo on the Program Center Facility. Tom asked about the possibility of moving the ropes to the storage area. Bill mentioned that the ropes would need to be secured and Chase added the ropes could be hung up and there’s not an immediate need since the activities will be wrapping up soon.
3. Debbee provided a Treasurer’s Report. Kitsap Branch is staying within budget; and revenue is at a stand-still due to COVID with some refunds on Basic Climbing and Kayaking registrations for cancelled classes.
4. Reports from activity chairs and co-chairs:
5. ~~Safety Officer Report~~
6. Youth Activities – Debbee reported that she is stepping down from Youth Outreach but that she would likely lead a quarterly activity.
7. Kitsap Climbing Committee – Debbee reported that there will likely be some changes in leadership, based on bringing in new volunteers and the need for experienced volunteers (Debbee, Lonny, Ed) to help with courses. Jeremy would likely stay on with the Basic Program and volunteers would be needed to meet the demand.
8. Kitsap Intermediate Climbing Committee and Course – Mark and Mike reported that the class was split and the plan will be to do fieldtrips twice this fall. The good news is that after this group graduates, several candidates can move on to the leader certification process to help with the Basic Course.
9. Kitsap Basic Alpine Course – Chase mentioned that the Crag Course would be done outside the Alpine Course since there are fewer instructors available right now, but fill the need to complete this portion of the training; there is interest in an accelerated class or glacier travel and if an additional class were added, it would open up spots in the basic class for next year; and there will be a new Climb Leader Application coming out soon.
10. Kitsap Alpine Scrambling – Larry announced that there may be a trip next week via Mt. Ellinor’s chute; and that the group is hoping to do zoom outreach soon. Suzy hoped that students can complete the program.
11. Kitsap Hiking & Backpacking – Christine and Jeff announced that a few new leaders have completed mentoring recently, including Mary Knighton and Kay Luoma which will help bump up the number of day hike listings.
12. Gear Officer – Tom will be polling leadership on whether the branch should consider a membership (and if so, $160 vs. $320 level) for an Inreach locator device; and announced that library resources at the Program Center have been inventoried with the check-out process on the honor system.
13. ~~Kitsap Naturalists Committee~~
14. Kitsap Conservation & Stewardship Committee – Debbee mentioned that we would need to wait to Phase 3 to pursue conservation projects but that small invasive removal work parties can move forward, with small group size.
15. ~~Kitsap Mountaineering-oriented First Aid Committee~~
16. ~~Kitsap Navigation Committee~~
17. ~~Kitsap Sea Kayaking Committee~~
18. ~~Kitsap Forest Theater & Cabin~~
19. ~~Kitsap Mountaineers Arts~~
20. ~~Kitsap Photography Group~~
21. Other – The next meeting date will be determined & a “Save the Date” for October 17 for the Annual Meeting, likely in virtual format.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:07 PM.