Kitsap Mountaineers Executive Committee   
May 14, 2020 Quarterly Meeting Minutes

In Attendance: Bill Bandrowski, Branch Chair; Debbee Lynn, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Youth Outreach; Christine Grenier, Secretary, Hiking Co-Chair; Ciara Sampaio, Trustee at Large; Jerry Logan, Board of Directors.

Also present were Barney Bernhard, Kayaking Chair; Larry Walker, Climbing & Scrambling; Suzy Diesen, Scrambling Chair; Mark Goodro, Climbing; Jeff McKay, Hiking Co-Chair; Ed Lucas, Climbing; Nathan Starr, Climbing & Scrambling; Mike Harlow, Climbing.

The following Board Member was absent: David Burton, Trustee At Large, Arts.

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

1. Bill commented on the proposed COVID-19 Activity Guidelines and their potential impact on the Mountaineers; and that it is remarkable that the club is getting creative in how it offers online courses and activities.
2. Bill also commented that he is dealing with an unexpected personal matter and this may affect his role with Excomm in the short term. He also acknowledged that families are being impacted during the quarantine and offered his well wishes.
3. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Bill reviewed the highlights of the meeting minutes; and the March 3, 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes were approved unanimously.

1. Bill reported on the” State of the Mountaineers” Meeting held yesterday. Highlights included:

Planning Scenarios for resuming activities (Scenario B most likely which would fall during mid-summer); Cash Model with projections between 18-30 months; and more guidance is coming for trip leaders.

Also, branches will be asked to provide LEAN Budgets since there is a potential shortfall ($1.2 million?) going into 2021. The club will look closely at expenses, seek efficiencies, utilize cash sources, consider what programs would be difficult to stop/start, limit website improvements, reduce printed materials like book catalogs or club magazine, and make tough decisions on staffing (i.e. furlough or layoffs).

Mountaineers will be moving towards more online content for courses and virtual social events in the interim.

Jerry added that the financial impact will be real, including staff cuts which will average 15%. This could also mean 4-5 less positions. Other areas to consider might include the long term building fund or a loan, in the event of a more long term situation which causes the shortfall to worsen.

Other discussion included potential rent forgiveness with the City of Seattle for the Mountaineers Book Warehouse and in the long term, the Program Center Lease. For Kitsap, we should be fine for the Program Center Lease since that is a low cost item and benefits the branch. If the situation became dire and the club looked at this expense, we could discuss with Olympic Mountain Rescue for solutions.

The take-away message is that Branches will be checking-in on members, hosting virtual community events (or content) to reconnect, considering a LEAN budget going forward, to have a positive & creative outlook, and to “stay safe and healthy” .

5.      Continuing with discussion on creative online programing and creating revenue, possible options might   
 include hosting an author lecture that ties to book sales or a special event like a movie night for a   
 small fee.

Other branches are trying out events like “Beta and Brews” and “Backpacking Pajama   
 Parties” and also moved Digital Navigation and Birding Courses online; and migrating   
 pre-requisites to some online content. The club is trying out Zoom and Google Classroom.   
 Kitsap has had success with Leadership Education online classes on Trip Planning and the Halo Effect.

Jerry indicated that the move online might be worth it for Intermediate Climbing, for example, the rock   
 climbing lecture. Christine added that online content would be helpful in mentoring hike leaders, for   
 training that can be done off-trail. Mark emphasized that people could share their set-ups and home   
 practice for skills review. Bill shared that this would work well for incorporating into prep/course   
 work. Larry commented that videos could be made skills review which would substitute well for in-  
 class demos. Bill acknowledged that we have a need for fun and social events for the branch.

6.       Bill indicated that the Mountaineers will be issuing guidance to leaders, as soon as this Friday, May 15.   
 The assumption is that the club will be aligning with Governor Inslee’s directives and following 4   
 Phases of re-opening the community for both business and recreation. We’re currently in Phase 1, so   
 the guidance will cover Phase 2 beginning on June 1 or as determined by Governor Inslee. Guidance   
 will be updated as we move phase to phase.

Nathan mentioned we should follow on the conservative side that leaders should have a back-up plan

(especially since there are inconsistencies in trail/road access and there will be pressure on parking),   
 limit exposure to others especially when we’ve moved out of area for trips. Jerry emphasized that   
 some of the considerations being made during Phase 2 include safety precautions, staying on routes   
 close to home, and limiting group size.

7.      ~~Kitsap Safety Officer Report and current Covid guidance~~

8.      Bill provided an update on Kitsap leadership succession planning.

* ExComm voted unanimously by email effective April 13, to appoint Debbee Lynn as Vice-Chair. No comment/vote was received by David Burton. Debbee will also continue to act as Treasurer until the position is filled.
* Several potential volunteers have come forward, so we will likely have new leadership at the committee and branch level going into fall.

9.    Jerry reported that the Board Report will be finalized tomorrow, and we will be following Governor’s   
 guidance.

10.   Jerry reported that the Virtual Mountaineer Gala was very successful at $200,000+. Donors are keeping   
 Mountaineers going! It’s possible we may have an in-person event in the future (uncertainty for July),   
 but given how the online event went, we may consider using this forum again.

11.   Bill confirmed that we are “saving the date” for Saturday, October 17 for the Annual Celebration/Open   
 House. Hopefully, the branch can host the gathering at capacity or we’ll come up with online   
 alternatives to be social and to recognize achievements of volunteers and students. Going forward, we   
 will need to seek outreach support for “Meet the Mountaineers” or other social type events and   
 possibly other funding sources, such as the Kitsap Great Give for local donations.

12.   There was discussion on the Program Center Facility.

* Volunteers are needed to paint the logo on the building. Suzy mentioned she might know an artist. Jerry added that we would need to get the official logo (a few options) from headquarters.
* No update was available yet on the Altwein bequest, since the lawsuit with the KETA Legacy Foundation has been delayed to later in the year.

13.   A Financial Report was provided by Debbee and Bill. There have been refunds for the Kayak course   
 which was cancelled. There were a few refunds for Basic Climbing and Navigation Courses as well.   
 We’ve also received revenue on courses like WFA which were held over fall/winter, and other courses   
 started that will likely be continued later in the year (Basic Climbing?). Kitsap is staying within its   
 budget year-to-date and we’ve held off on equipment purchases or expenses.

14.   ~~Proposals for training support (challenging)~~

15.   Bill and Larry expressed interest in a possible Winter Camping course this fall.

16.   Reports from activity chairs and co-chairs (as available) (including activity summits):

* Youth Activities – Debbee indicated there will be continued focus on the explorer group. Camps will not likely get scheduled until Phase 3. The Family Program has been started. There have been partnerships with Coffee Oasis and Canal Enhancement.
* Kitsap Basic Climbing Committee – Bill referred to an email from Chase who mentioned that the climbing community met a week ago to come up with trip guidance.
* Kitsap Intermediate Climbing Committee and Course – Jerry announced that the lecture and field trip need to be done, likely in Phase 2 with a smaller group size or later to complete all students. Also, they’re considering whether to proceed with the rock portion of the course in July and working out options for a course held in the fall.
* Kitsap Basic Alpine Course – Ed mentioned that if a window opens up, the course could possibly re-opened in Phase 3 with larger groups. They are trying to work through logistics.
* Kitsap Alpine Scrambling – Larry commented that the snow module is remaining. Also, that Jeremy reached out to the class for possible completion next year with lectures possibly being done online (Zoom) and as many of the field trips as possible.
* Kitsap Hiking & Backpacking – Christine indicated the need to educate/mentor new leaders, conditioning for all leaders and reaching out while small groups are in place and other leaders may be inactive due to being in a risk group(s).   Jeff emphasized that the leaders need guidance so that trips can be planned, the sooner the better.
* ~~Gear Officer/Chair~~
* ~~Kitsap Naturalists Committee~~
* ~~Kitsap Conservation & Stewardship Committee~~
* ~~Kitsap Mountaineering-oriented First Aid Committee~~
* Kitsap Navigation Committee – Mark mentioned that there was discussion about a fieldtrip in the “Kitsap Campfire”.
* Kitsap Sea Kayaking Committee – Barney reported that the course was cancelled. There are plans to look at equivalency to onboard more leaders. They’re excited to receive more guidance to more forward.
* Kitsap Forest Theater & Cabin – Jerry indicated that the situation with the Forest Theatre is sad. The season was planned and advertised prior to COVID-19. Debbee stated that if the Players can get a rehearsal in by June 15, then the performances could be rescheduled for the 2nd half of summer.
* ~~Kitsap Mountaineers Arts~~
* Kitsap Photography Group (proposed) – Bill suggested that members share photos online until there is enough interest in a program.

17.   Other – The next meeting date will be determined.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:07 PM.