**Kitsap Branch EXCOM Meeting Minutes for May 19, 2016**

Held at Fire Station 56, 6470 Seabeck Highway NW, Bremerton Washington

Present: Jeff Schrepple, Tom Thrasher, Dave Burton, Mark Thibault, Christine Grenier, and Linda Anderson-Carnahan

The meeting was called to order at 5:55 pm.

**Agenda**

Approval of November Minutes - minutes approved by unanimous vote..

Branch Fiscal Status/Budget Submission -

Rachel has taken over lead for the budget. Ralph was able to put budget information for many of the committees into a spreadsheet. This made this year’s budget submission the best in the past three years.

The Branch overspent this year (avalanche beacons, cabin rentals rolled into the current year). The Branch had more revenue than expected however. Branches now no longer track revenues, only expenses. This means that the Club overhead is no longer negatively impacting the ability of the branch to purchase those items they need. If additional needs are identified during the year, a request can go into the Club Finance Committee. The Club is doing very well financially. The Snoqualmie property has been sold but the Club still has an easement.

There was discussion about whether the Club should cover the cost of volunteers’ transportation to the course field trips (but not for leading climbs, hikes, etc.). Jeff will review the policy and we will discuss this at the next ExCom meeting. Jeff is concerned that paying for volunteers’ gas and ferry tickets could be considered compensation.

**Activity Reports**

Conservation (Rick Gillattt) – no report.

Naturalist Committee - Sue will be offering a mushroom hike again this year.

Kayaking - Vern has withdrawn the kayaking course for 2016. Vern is mentoring a couple new leaders. The Mountaineers will carry a story on Vern’s coastal cleanup activity in the quarterly Mountaineers magazine.

Intermediate Climbing - Last week four intermediate students (all three of this year’s students and one from a previous year) were lead certified on rock. Two intermediate students from previous years may not get lead certified on rock. One of the students wants to only lead glacier climbs. Intermediates are doing a great job of instructing the basic classes and field trips.

Basic Climbing - There are 14 of the original 22 basic students remaining in the course, all but one of these have suspended their participation so will be back next year to try to graduate. There are 10 basic students from previous years that haven’t graduated (four of these probably won’t).

The climbing course leads are looking at having co-chairs for succession planning.

Hiking - Christine reported that there are 8 active leaders. Carolyn, a Seattle Naturalist leader, may be tapped for leadership in our Branch. Her participation may draw people to Kitsap. Sue will take over the Naturalist Committee from Vern. Doug Terry is the backpacking chair; Christine is the hiking chair – it might be worth combining the two groups. Christine may set up a refresher trip to revitalize the backpacking group. Suggested Christine contact John Howard and Greg Wardlow. Christine will also contact Theresa McLain who only needs more mentored hikes. She may hold a general interest meeting. Christine will help us list Kitsap courses for the Club newsletter (published between the 5th and 7th of the month).

**Old Business**

Report on Pricing Committee **-** Pricing committee is looking at maximizing participation not increasing revenues. They may adopt a tiered payment system (the student would pay what they can afford) or provide scholarships for those needing assistance.

**New Business**

Committee to Modernize Outdoor Recreation/ Climbing rep needed - 2017 Strategic Plan probably won’t be revisited this year. Instead the new CEO, Tom Vogl, wants to modernize outdoor education/climbing. Climbing minimum standards have not been formally updated since 2007. Linda and Tom argued that Branch Climbing Chairs have already commissioned a guide service to assess the basic climbing curricula and met earlier in the year to discuss the results and updating the climbing standards and curricula for the basic course. Linda will be the Branch point of contact for Tom’s effort. The standards for kayaking and hiking have already been updated.

New Cabin Caretaker Hired - Travis Foreman is now in place. The first caretaker selected later declined the position.

Approve Sue Labrie as Board Representative for rest of Vern’s term - approved during the previous meeting. Such approval was acknowledged by all present.

Need a new Vice Chair, Secretary, and Naturalist Committee Chair - Sue Labrie will be the Naturalist Committee Chair. Carolyn from Seattle might be an alternate. Could Ralph be vice-chair of the Branch? The vice-chair traditionally becomes the chair after some time. Jeff will post/Christine will include in the newsletter the job descriptions for these positions. We might approach DuWayne Talley to take on the Kayaking Committee Chair position.

Need a new Trail Running Chair or decide to discontinue the activity – Mark has to step down. Christine may be able to help and Linda will see if anyone is interested from the climbing committee. The routes are in the database. They would just need to be willing to host/post a few runs a year.

Discussion of place and time of next annual membership meeting- the Poulsbo City Council Chambers will be used again (only $10/hour). New officers need to be in place soon. Tom will manage the elections. October date (TBD) at 6pm. Jeff will provide a photo tour of his Kilimanjaro hike.

Selection of Month for Next Quarter’s Meeting – Members present decided that the next quarterly meeting will be held on the third Thursday in September (September 15th)

Meeting adjourned at 7:45.