**Final Version**

**Kitsap Mountaineers Executive Committee Meeting May 21, 2013**

Executive Committee Members Present:

Jimmy James, Jeff Schrepple, Dave Burton, Sue Labrie, Dianne Moore, Mike Raymond, Jon DeArman, Tom Thrasher, John Davis, and Vern Brown.

Meeting commenced at 5:37 pm

Treasurer’s Report: Dianne reported only minor changes in our financial condition from last month, but also reported that in the next fiscal year, our allocation of branch member dues will increase to 40% from its current 18%. We will continue to provide 20% of our course fees to Mountaineers headquarters. She reminded everyone that she had to present next year’s budget plan to headquarters by May 31st so she needed all committee chairs to let her know, as soon as possible, what courses they plan to conduct next year, what month those courses would be taught, what we intended to charge for each course (Hqs suggests a 5% increase from last year’s fee), the estimated number of students for each course, and the estimated number of days where paid coursework would be conducted on USFS lands. She also reminded the committee chairs to inventory the Mountaineers’ equipment in their possession and let her know what they have. Once that information is obtained, she will work with the committee to develop policies as to who shall retain each item and how it can be checked out by other branch members.

Branch Chair Report: Jimmy deferred so that we could move directly to New Business.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Leader Lists for Climbing, Hiking, Kayak, etc.: A more complete list of leaders (than was reviewed last month) was downloaded from the Mountaineers website and presented to the ExCom members for a vote. All lists were approved by a unanimous vote.

Report on Meeting with Players and Cabin Committee: Jimmy asked John Davis to assist him with the meetings with the Players and Property people and John provided a detailed report on the status of the disagreement between our branch and the Kitsap Players concerning the remainder of the funds in the Altwein grant, which originally amounted to $160,000. While the executor of the will has determined that those funds shall be used for the direct, tangible benefit of the Kitsap Mountaineers (which we interpret to be our branch) the Players contend that Diane Altwein was a member of the Mountaineers for 30 years before the branch was established in 2003 and that during that time much of her association with the Mountaineers was with the Players. Accordingly, the Players believe the funds were meant to benefit the capital improvements to the Kitsap Cabin and associated grounds and structures rather than branch programs. The Mountaineers Executive Director is aware of this disagreement but prefers that our branch and the Players work a resolution to this situation among ourselves with no intervention by the headquarters. There is some urgency to solving this problem because the Players already have a multipage list of capital projects that they want to fund as soon as possible. The Players also contend that a precedent was set in their favor when the branch agreed to use $46,000 of the bequest to recently upgrade the Cabin kitchen, however, the branch insists that was a “good faith gesture” and was not intended to be a standard for subsequent expenditures. The issue is further complicated by the fact that the Kitsap branch of the Mountaineers is not a legal entity and can not be given the funds directly.

John proposed that we write a letter to the Players letting them know our interpretation of direct, tangible benefits to the branch as well as indicate to them how we propose to spend the Altwein funds. Because we use the Cabin, some associated structures, as well as the roads and portions of the property (for Salmon Safari) we may be able to share financial responsibility for some of their capital expenditures. He also suggested that we might ask that the $46,000 already spent be counted as rent paid for future use of the parts of the property we generally need, but Tab Wilkins is opposed to letting us use the Altwein funds for rent and the Foundation has said the funds may not be used for “ordinary” expenses. John also believes that if this issue turns into a shoving match, the branch will lose. He also believes we are in a weak bargaining position because we (a) have been unable to provide volunteers to assist with property maintenance (while the Players have excelled in those efforts), (b) do not have a plan of our own for expenditure of the funds, and (c) may not even be viable as a continuing branch as evidenced by our inability to fill all our ExCom/administrative branch positions.

John recommended that we assemble a team to do some strategic programmatic planning in the very near future to provide a listing of how we would propose spending the remaining funds. He also recommended that we fill our remaining ExCom positions (vice chair and board trustee) and that we form a nominating committee to have names to present for the ExCom positions for a vote at the general membership meeting in September. As noted above, he also recommended that we write a letter to the Players explaining our interpretation of what the direct, tangible benefits should be and ask for their clarification. He floated the idea of an endowment as another possible use of the money.

Discussion of Cabin Situation: Mike Raymond stated that the bequest clearly requires Kitsap branch approval on any Altwein expenditures so, for now, the headquarters and Players have to deal with us. He also noted that the Players are very well organized and work at the property year in and year out on a predictable basis, while the branch is just the opposite. To correct this, Mike recommended that we need consistent opportunities for branch members to get together and to accomplish this we must have a multiyear vision. To that end we need to do strategic planning and we need to do it soon. He added that he believes this strategic planning should result in a list of programs to be conducted approximately the same time each year to support current and future members. He does not believe the funds should be spent on “things”. He recommended development of an annual program and proposed monthly potluck membership meetings at the Silverdale Community Center. Finally, he noted that expenditures would have to be approved by our branch, by the Mountaineers BOD, and by the Foundation – all of which meet on a different interval.

Jeff Schrepple agreed with Mike on the need for strategic planning and suggested that the proposed letter asking for clarification be postponed until after the branch had produced their own plan for the Altwein bequest to counter the list of capital projects proposed by the Players.

Vern Brown noted that our footprint (the portions of the property that the branch uses) is not exclusive and that any plans for usage should be prorated.

Jon DeArman noted that the Players and the Cabin Committee are not the same and we have to deal with both. He also said that to ensure we can fill our ExCom/administrative positions for the next fiscal year, we must have a nominating committee established soon to start talking to possible candidates well before the September meeting – both to let them know what the responsibilities of the positions are and to guarantee them support should they offer to serve.

The discussion ended with a request by John that all ExCom members and activity chairs send an email to Jimmy and him providing individual thoughts on (a) what programs the branch should have, (b) what capital improvements we should pursue, (c) asking for free rent for the $46,000 already invested, (d) when and how to do strategic planning, and (e) anything else concerning the above discussion.

Approval of Jeff Schrepple as the Branch Secretary: With a quorum of the ExCom present, a unanimous vote of approval was provided for Jeff to serve as the branch secretary.

ACTIVITY CHAIR REPORTS: None.

The agenda noted that chairpersons were still needed for family activities, youth outreach, and MOFA – in addition to a vice chairman.

Closing Remarks: None.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:27 pm.