

Officer Committee Meeting
Olympia Center

May 13th, 2015

Attendance

Officers:

- Greg Lovelady, Chair
- Brian List, Chair-Elect
- Derek Pierson, Secretary
- Henry Romer, Director
- John Flanagan, Member at Large
- Carla Jonientz, Social Chair
- Mike Riley, Treasurer

Members:

- Tom Eckhout
- Donna Kreuger
- Dawn Thomas
- Marilyn Miller
- Dean Taylor
- Tom Whitney

Greg Lovelady called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

- > Brian List moved to accept last month's minutes, John Flanagan seconded and the motion passed.

Announcements:

Greg Lovelady said that there are two new additions to the club's policies, Complaint Handling Procedures and Proposing a Change to an Existing Policy or Practice. Greg also mentioned that Piper Bagley's position as Club's Controller has now been filled by Jeff Potter.

H.A.R.K. is having an event July 18th at Millersylvania State Park and Greg relayed for Patrick Chaffeur that they are in need of volunteers to staff stations at the event.

- * Marilyn Miller suggested sending a separate email (or E-Blast) from the monthly E-Blast for events like H.A.R.K. when volunteers are needed and nobody has responded.

Dean Taylor said that there are three main development efforts for the website enhancement project, an update to trips and activities, an update to the volunteers section and an update to the branch pages section. The update to the branch pages section will include such things as, adding a rotating banner as well as an added section on the left navigation for committees. Each owner of a committee should be able to edit their own committee page; this also gives us the ability to add new pages, i.e. a library page. Dean also mentioned that they explicitly said that the visibility of the branches on the main web page is not part of their plans, and will not be added until each branch has "full content".

Officer Reports

Treasurer: Mike Riley said that for now things are looking pretty good financially and that he spent a lot of time on shared allocations (the club's tax on branches) but is also working on next year's budget. He said that we are headed into the "expense" period of the year and that he thinks any deficit should not be part of shared allocations. This year our shared allocations was around \$10,000 but that in the next fiscal year it will likely exceed \$20,000. He also finds it odd that the club's fund-raising revenue is not included as part of shared allocations though, the new volunteer initiative is included; which basically means we are not seeing any fund raising money at the branch level. Mike also added that there seems to be a problematic concept going around to make course prices consistent across branches. As a suggestion Mike says we might need to try approaching the program center from a different angle.

Henry Romer is concerned by a decision made at the board level to run deficit against cash reserves, he is worried the deficit will run down through shared allocations to the branches. Henry responded to Mike's comment about new initiatives being included in shared allocations with the bottom line is that club-wide initiatives are funded by branches. Henry also mentioned that he is of the opinion that the Collaborations Task Force should recommend solutions for the governance failures we are seeing.

Greg Lovelady said that the Collaborations Task Force is making progress, that it hopes will lead to changes.

Mike Riley added that it should be possible for events us to increase event and course fees by a small amount, but that will not be enough ofr us to pay the added Shared Allocation tax in the next fiscal year.

Brian List said that, in regards to Banff with Alpine Experience going out of business we lost a lot of extra help for that particular event.

Derek Pierson said that in the last few years, as part of the Banff committee, he has noticed that we have had a steady increase in Banff volunteers, though now that Alpine Experience is gone we may not have a physical location to sell tickets as opposed to just selling them online.

* Greg Lovelady suggested that we table the current budget discussion and ask Mike Riley put together a proposal to bring to the board in regards to the financial issues discussed.

John Flanagan suggested that somewhere in Mike Riley's report he show that the Olympia Branch can't sustain itself with the new system.

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Social Chair: Carla Jonientz said that the picnic information went out in an E-Blast and is on the website; she expects 55-85 people and would like to ask for a budget of \$600 for food and reservations. Carla noted that the last few years they spent around \$400-\$500.

Derek Pierson asked about the possibility of posting picnic information to Facebook. Cara will think about it, but currently she expects people to RSVP for the event so that she will know how much food they will need, also if random people show up, which is okay, she would hate for the people who do RSVP to miss out on food.

- > John Flanagan moved to accept Carla's request for \$600, Brian List seconded and the motion passed.

Chair Elect: Brian List said that the Nominations Committee is going well and that he will let Dawn Thomas talk about the current status. Brian then mentioned that he is also working with the leadership course [subsequently canceled due to too few students] and they are thinking about doing a scenario in the Mt. Elinor area, though he wonders about how to relate such a scenario to leadership issues within our community of kayakers.

Dawn Thomas said that the Nominations Committee for next year's officers has one candidate for Chair, two for Social Chair and no one currently for treasurer. Dawn asks everyone who has any suggestions to send her names for the above listed positions if they know anyone who might fit.

Greg Lovelady said that he has some ideas about how to handle a scenario in leadership and will talk with Brian about them.

Secretary: Derek Pierson said that he received a request from David Perez, an Olympia Basic Climbing grad who now is Vice President of Tacoma Mountain Rescue Unit, to share the Olympia branch's training documents for Basic and Intermediate climbing as well as the Navigation course to build off of and use as examples for TMRU's less intensive yearly training sessions.

- * Henry Romer suggested that Derek have Dave check the Olympia website for course information and if more information is needed, to bring the request back to the board if needed. Though it was discussed and seems O.K. to allow TMRU to have training material and Derek will look into it.

Director: Henry Romer an issue that our branch and even the entire club has is that we need more people to volunteer to lead trips. Because of that issue, the Board of Directors is interested in increasing our club wide footprint in outdoor activities which will trickle down to the branches; they are labeling it under a volunteer support initiative.

Old Business

Greg Lovelady said that the Collaborations Task Force was contacted by the Executive Committee to meet prior to the presentation of their final report which will delay presentation of the final report. Greg also mentioned that staff is suggesting that voting for all club officer elections be held in the same calendar period, so that everyone can be in “sync” which should help with marketing, increased visibility and overall participation in the elections.

Henry Romer said that offers terms should be in sync with the fiscal year. He also thinks such a request should be part of the considerations the Collaborations Task Force looks into.

Bylaws

Greg said that he is not suggesting we adopt the Bylaws revision tonight, nor is he suggesting throwing out the old Bylaws. However, when reviewing the Bylaws he noticed that there are some sections that are confusing, including outdated standards and references to things such as committees that no longer exist. In the revision Greg suggests adding the change of titles, add responsibility for the chair-elect, updating language in regards to our 501.3c status, and fixing references and quotes mentioned above. Once that is complete he would send out a new draft.

Tom Whitney said that the new Bylaws are a mix of both policies and rules. In the past, we've referred to our actual Bylaws as “rules” and kept our policies, which include more information, separate. Tom noted that according to the current “rules” we have to have a special meeting where everyone is invited (like a town hall) to adopt any changes to the “rules”, though with policies we can continually update and revise them with only a vote by the Officer's.

Carla Jonientz said that because of the nature at which the club and branch change she thinks it would be a good idea to review the Bylaws “rules” and policies every five years. Carla also said that she likes Tom's suggestion about keeping the a high level rules document, though she would like to see the Officer's duties outlined in the new “rules” document.

Marilyn Miller said that following Tom's suggestion the board doesn't have to actually write the policies, they can be left to the course & committee chairs to keep them up to date.

Henry Romer said that we have a hard enough time trying to get volunteers to run for office on top of having them read a one-hundred page document describing our Bylaws.

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Mike Riley said that the rules document could reference the “policies” for the actual details on what is required.

- * Greg Lovelady asked for volunteers in helping him work on the new rules (bylaws) document. He suggests a three to four person rules committee. Derek Pierson, Marilyn Miller, John Flanagan and Tom Whitney all volunteered. The first meeting is scheduled for Tuesday May 26th at 6pm.

Greg Lovelady adjourned the meeting at 8:19 PM.

The next meeting is Jun 10th at 6:00 PM at the Olympia Center.