

# Olympia Branch Council

Meeting Minutes – 2/10/2021

*Teleconference*

## Attendees

Officers: *Neal Kirby, Bob Keranen, Scott Carlson, Dean Taylor, Mike Kretzler, Beth Peden, Maxine Dunkelman, Virginia Haas*

Guests: *Paul Kallman, Michelle Garcia, Nancy Lloyd, Monty Pratt, Greg Lovelady, Julie Dasso*

## Agenda Items

Meeting called to order at 6:01pm

Approval of January 2021 minutes

- The January minutes were approved by all

Social Committee – Virginia Haas and Maxine Dunkelman

- Summer picnic – we feel good about our ability to have this event since it is outside. We would like to decide in March on whether to invest in a larger picnic that would supplant the fall banquet.
- Fall banquet – we're not sure if we can be inside together for this. It may be wise to make the summer picnic the big event and do the banquet virtually again. Would St. Martins hold our spot for us if we skipped this year?

Course Fees – Bob Keranen

- The Program Center (PC) is suggesting we raise our course fees to be more in line with the other branches. Five years ago our branch suggested that the PC wanted us to charge too much. Now it may not be too much. Becca Polgase says it is really up the branch chair how much we charge for our courses. This is a 2022 issue. For instance, we currently charge \$495 for Basic Climbing and the PC wants us to charge \$938. We charge \$230 for Alpine Scrambling and the PC is suggesting \$318. The Olympia fees for First Aid, Navigation, Sea Kayaking are already fairly close to what the PC suggests.
- Question — how does our Banff revenue affect this? We made \$11,000 in 2019 and nothing in 2020.
- With our current virtual lecture model it is very easy for students from other branches to take the Olympia version of the course because they only have to travel for field trips. We need to give students in our region precedence if we're going to keep our competitive pricing.

Communications Committee – Dean Taylor (on behalf of Dee Ann Kline)

- Six virtual clinics are scheduled for March: Inreach for Newbies, two Hiking Mini-Clinics, two Family Hike Mini-Clinics, 1 Backpack mini clinic
- Working on a blog and promotions for these. Blog will be shared to Facebook pages and the PC was asked to distribute through their social media outlets.
- Working on two more blogs: Welcome New Members and Branch library (which includes Maxine's new additions)
- Banff - As soon as Mike Riley gets the Banff agreement locked down we will get various people together and start promoting in the following areas: Branch home page, blog and then to Facebook pages, Outside- Thurston Talks, Jolt, KMAS, Email list, Eblast, and we'll ask the PC to distribute through social media.

#### McCleary Cliffs – Bob Keranen

- There is concern that the forest service may want to remove the trail system, which may include removing the climbing bolts. On Feb. 19 Bob Keranen and Mike Riley will be touring the area with representatives from several agencies. We will describe our usage of the area and willingness to help improve it.

## Activity Reports

#### Hiking – Michelle Garcia

- There have been seven recent family activities (Five hikes, a snowshoe, and a disc golf event). There are plenty more activities planned for the summer.

#### Scrambling – Paul Kallman

- We have 23 students signed up with plenty of others on the wait list. Our first field trip is this Saturday with a potential snow event in the forecast.

#### Wilderness Skills – Bob Keranen

- There were 59 students, all virtual, and they received a good learning experience via Google Classroom. Lots of content but difficult to manage the student's completion of the material when they are all virtual. Kudos to Jennifer Goodwin!

#### Navigation – Mike

- There is a full class. Most of the course will be virtual. Is a little short of volunteers but has until early May to find more.

#### Hiking – Monty Pratt

- The hiking group is proposing an urban hike leader role to accompany their hike and backpack leader categories.

## Branch Officer Reports

Treasurer – Beth Peden

- Not much going on. Budgeting begins in March/April.

Chair – Neal Kirby

- The Branch Leadership Committee (BLC) has proposed a change in the voting model. Neal will be working on a way to propose they continue with a consensus model rather than shifting to a voting model.

Director – Mike Kretzler

- The board meets next in March.

Secretary – Dean Taylor

- We were Zoom-bombed during this meeting at around 6:15. I will be recreating the Zoom meetings for the remainder of the year and will no longer post the link on the branch calendar. I will provide a way for members to contact me to get on the Zoom email mailing list.

## Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 7:01pm