



2302 N. 30<sup>th</sup>  
Tacoma, WA

[www.tacomamountaineers.org](http://www.tacomamountaineers.org)

Mountaineers, Tacoma Branch Council Meeting  
Minutes for 7 May 2020

- I. Call to order. The May 7, 2020, Tacoma Branch Mountaineers Council meeting was held virtually via Zoom conferencing (due to Mountaineers and Washington State stay-at-home directives). The meeting was called to order by Curtis Stock at 7:00 PM and is presented in the order per the agenda. Council members present: Curtis Stock, Harley Sandoval, Scott Schissel, and Lisa Hayek.  
Absent: Natalia Martinez-Paz (vice-chair), Mark Kerr (Board Rep) and Sarah Holt (Program Center administrator).
- II. Welcome and introductions. Welcomed Lisa Hayek as a newly appointed council member at-large.
- III. Approval of Minutes. The minutes of the March 26 meeting had been distributed after the previous meeting and there were no changes or corrections. The minutes were approved as distributed.
- IV. Information and discussion items.
  - a. COVID-19 – Impacts and Mitigation Efforts.
    - i. Open Forum Sessions. As announced at the last council meeting, Curtis hosted two open forum sessions with branch activity committee chairs to talk about impacts of closures and actions that committees can take, and are taking, to continue to engage members and carry out our program as much as possible. The two sessions had 12-15 participants and mainly were opportunities for sharing.
    - ii. Interim Program Plans. We reviewed some of the e-learning options available (not many). Other branches are developing new content that can be delivered remotely, either in either live or on-demand formats. We reviewed the Hiking/Backpacking online efforts to date (Geology Rocks! and Conditioning Hiking Series). Intensive basic is underway – Scott presented online lesson that went well. Hands-on sessions still to be scheduled. Sea kayaking had 7 students qualified to continue with it's direct mentoring model course.
    - iii. Reopening Guidelines. Anticipate that restarting Mountaineers programs will follow the governor's lead in a phased approach. Staff will be developing some draft guidelines to be reviewed by the Board of Directors. No target date set for this yet.
    - iv. Leaders' Meeting May 13. The Mountaineers staff just announced that there will be a virtual meeting for all leaders to be held on May 13. The meeting will be assessing the state of the club and prospects for our programs in the near- and intermediate terms. Curtis will provide registration links.



## Mountaineers, Tacoma Branch Council

- v. Course Fees. The cancellation of many courses has greatly impacted the overall club revenue. Committees are encouraged to consider nominal participation fees for any online workshops or other events they will be sponsoring. The Mountaineers staff will be putting out some guidance about the kind of fees that are appropriate for different kinds of offerings. Experience has shown that in this environment many folks are willing to make a small donation for engaging in a recreational activity online.
  - vi. Budget. A large portion of the operating budget is based on course fees. As previously mentioned, FY2021 budget development was stopped in mid-stride due to the uncertainty of COVID-19 impacts and massive changes in course plans. Will likely need to take a fresh look at 2021 course planning in the next couple of months.
  - vii. Branch Zoom Accounts. Lisa asked about the possibility of branches getting their own Zoom accounts. Curtis will inquire.
  - b. Division & Committee Chair Assignments.
    - i. New activity committee chairs:
      - Avalanche Education Chair – Meredith Mosman has accepted.
      - Backcountry Skiing Chair -- Scott Schissel has assumed Chair from Nick Wilson. Looking to sponsor a course for the fall.
      - Trail Running Chair. AJ Colosimo has assumed Chair from Scott Schissel.
    - ii. Pending activity committee chairs.
      - 1. Wilderness First Aid. John Dinh might be interested but needs more details from Nick Wilson.
      - 2. Stewardship. Margot Tsakonas is looking to transition this role.
    - iii. New activity committee.
      - Scott raised the prospect of a mountain biking activity and related courses. May need organizational decision for this? Curtis will check.
  - c. Branch Activity Committee Governance. After the last council meeting Curtis drafted boilerplate guidelines and distributed to council members. No comments received. Scott was going to send out to Outdoor Division committees but has not. Curtis will resend. Looking for feedback or additions.
  - d. Council Priorities/Goals. COVID-19 response has preempted much work in this area. Curtis identified a couple of areas that he would like to focus on.
    - i. Trip Leaders
    - ii. Communications within the Tacoma Branch
  - e. Succession planning. No update.
  - f. Calendar. Our next scheduled meeting is June 18. Curtis proposed the following council meeting dates for the rest of the year: August 6, September 17, November 5, December 17. There were no objections other than December might be problematic for some due to proximity to holidays and might need to be rescheduled.
- V. Celebrations and Announcements.
- a. Lisa reported good attendance at the virtual events hosted by Hiking/Backpacking.
- VI. Action items. We reviewed the action items from the last meeting.



## Mountaineers, Tacoma Branch Council

- a. Form a sub-committee for Third Thursdays and general outreach. This will be deferred until we have constructed a master calendar for Tacoma Branch course starts, so that the public outreach can feed into upcoming course opportunities. No update (Natalia)
  - b. Inquire about the Peak Pins and other recognition programs. No update. Lisa might have someone interested in helping with this. (Curtis)
  - c. Set up Basecamp account for branch council. After further discussion the team decided that a Google Docs account might be a better platform for our purposes. Natalia will set it up. No update. (Natalia)
  - d. Provide an overview on funding flows and budget. Curtis is still working on this. In progress. (Curtis)
  - e. Propose dinner with Tom Vogl on or after April 18. Deferred until in-person gathering suspension is lifted. (Curtis)
  - f. Develop a master calendar of branch courses – when they start and how long they run. No update. (Natalia)
  - g. Reach out to Dilek (Bulut) regarding e-Learning options available and resources to help develop new content. The e-learning library is currently rather small. Dilek was laid off as part of staff reductions so will not be a resource moving forward. DONE
  - h. Investigate possibility of a virtual lessons learned session from recent accident on Chair Peak (2/22/20). Contact info provided to Natalia. DONE
  - i. Plan/schedule COVID-19 open forum for Tacoma Branch committee chairs. Sessions held 4/8 and 4/22. DONE
  - j. Provide list of new committee chairs to Curtis. DONE
  - k. Follow up with Meredith regarding Avalanche Education Committee. DONE
  - l. Follow up with John Dinh regarding chair of Wilderness First Aid Committee. DONE
  - m. Develop draft committee governance guidelines, for potential inclusion into the Red Book. DONE
  - n. Provide registration links to all committee chairs for May 13 Leaders' meeting. (Curtis)
  - o. Investigate possibility of branch Zoom account. (Curtis)
  - p. Investigate any organizational requirements for forming mountain biking activity committee. (Curtis)
  - q. Distribute boilerplate committee governance guidelines to Outdoors Division. (Scott)
  - r. Backcountry Skiing Course development. (Scott)
- VII. Good of the Order. None
- VIII. Next meeting dates: Thursday June 18, Thursday, August 6, Thursday, September 17, Thursday, November 5, Thursday, December 17.
- IX. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm.

Submitted by:  
Curtis Stock