

Duluth XC Ski Club
Minutes
Jan. 9, 2005
6:30 p.m. at Dunn Bros., London Road

Present: Bryan French, Eric Chandler, Patti Harvieux, Sisto Santodonoto, Dee Bartlam, Paul Bartlam, Eric Viken, Brian Bich, Doug Olsen

Minutes from Dec. 12, 2004 board meeting approved by the board.

Committee Reports

Administration:

Bylaws: discussed voting rights. It was brought up for consideration that Family memberships are entitled to two votes and individual memberships entitled to one vote. The board agreed to work on the bylaws through email communication.

Paul Bartlam notified the board that he would like the board to replace him as Secretary if someone can be found. He is more than willing to serve until a replacement comes forward. The board was notified that we are still in need of a Social Director. The board agreed to post on its website openings for Secretary and Social director.

The board agreed that serving is a voluntary position and no swag or other rewards will be allowed at this time.

Communication:

Newsletter: Jennifer Gordon is currently working on the newsletter. The board decided to have the newsletter come out on the third Sunday of the month. This way it can report on the previous board meeting. The board gave approval for a weekly communication to go to all members on club activities if necessary.

Website: The website is running smoothly. The board inquired about our listing on search engines and other regional web pages. They were satisfied with their findings for this year.

The committee is still working on ways to increase message board postings. Especially trail reports.

The communications committee will look into other methods for managing the email list as necessary.

The committee approved posting of outings and races by the organizers in the paper through the email address calendar@duluthnews.com.

The committee will explore how best to credit copyrighted articles for the club to distribute to its members.

Finance:

Budget summary: As of the meeting, the club has \$1000.30 in the checking account. The treasurer reported that ~10% was from the raffle and donations; and from some significant donations adding to that amount. The treasurer reports having written out personal thank you notes to larger donators.

The board has asked that the Finance committee work on a budget based on our operations to date. In this budget, an operating amount will also be determined.

501c3 is still being worked on. The treasurer reported that progress should pick-up in the next month or so. It was agreed upon by the board that we make a reminder announcement to our members of our status with regard to the 501c3. The treasure agreed to make this available to the Communications director.

The treasurer reported that our mailbox is not a drop box and that to get items into the box they must be mailed to our address.

Membership:

Brian Bich is our new membership committee leader. Our previous membership leader reports that we have 160 members to date. Patti also handed out lists of volunteers from the membership applications. Brian reports he would like to give new members a welcome call and possibly arrange a pick-up location for the new member packets.

The membership committee reports it is making changes in the new membership application: space for member phone number, two email spaces,

Outings:

The outing committee leader reported that the first two outings were not well attended due to weather and insufficient publicity. However, they both had helped to generate awareness in the club. The third outing was very well attended. It generated much interest and exposed the club to many new skiers.

The board suggested, to the committee leader, that the signage and announcement be improved. It also would like to see a time announced for a small group to ski along with the current free form it now has. The board asked for the outings to also mention in its announcements “this is a family ski” in order to encourage more recreation skiers to attend. The board approved of the beverages and snacks and approved a budget of \$25 to the outing committee. The committee reported that the Saturday outings were much less then that per outing. The board also would like to see some outings combined with instruction and rental availability. The board asked the committee to review the safety of the Hartley night ski.

The committee-received approval to enter other outings at will i.e. moonlight skis etc.

The committee reports it would like to hold the “ski all the trails in a day” outing in March, after the major races have ended.

Races:

The race leader reported that the Time Trials are going very well. It has drawn out ~15-25 skiers each event except for two very cold events. The committee leader asked for input on ideas for prizes.

The club race is coming along very well. The date will be February 5th. The location, Spirit Mountain. Format: mass start, classical/skate - 12k, with a 6k fun race. The board approved of the races fee, date, location and format. The race committee leader reports needing volunteers for racer support, timing, and awards.

The race committee leader will contact the Green Man event coordinator to inquire of volunteer needs.

Sponsorship:

The sponsorship leader will look into the mailing from Pointe Waterfront Resort Hotel. Possibly get a free lodging to have available for message board postings. The committee recently had a meeting and reported it was very productive. They have identified some communities needs i.e. light groomer, lighted man made snow loop, warming huts at Lester , trail head at Spirit Mt./ Magney, and Piedmont. They report development is being made on finding ways to meet the identified needs: i.e. sponsor a race, silent auction, latter season ski swap, online store, youth ski clubs to get youth ski grants. They are encouraging the 501c3 process and identified it as the most powerful for their purpose. They report having discussed many grant sources and some proposals to the city of Duluth that they will present to the board in the future.

The board has asked that the sponsorship work on a way to recognize the contribution Cirrus Design has made in its donation to the city of Duluth for the Lester trail lights. It suggested a plaque at both trailheads and one for Cirrus to have presented to them at their office.

Trails:

The committee will give the board a report on the next Trails task force meeting the city will have.

The trails committee reported that ~\$5,000 a year goes toward the city from the Great Minnesota Ski pass. The committee reports that the city is doing a good job filling out the application for the Grant in aid money. The committee reports that there are other Federal funds available for trails that are not being requested.

The committee reports that no requests from the city have been made of the club.

The committee reports that the Lester lights still are on during daytime hours and they will notify the city of this use of the lights in the hope it can get corrected.

Old Business:

None was discussed.

New Business:

Doug Olsen requested the board review the Spirit Mountain proposal. He agreed to be our contact person with this business.

Brian Bich submitted a proposal on an additional, smaller groomer that may available to the club with a time-share strategy with Hermantown. The board agreed to be open to such an arrangement and approved Brian for going to the next Hermantown parks meeting as our representative.