

Grand Mesa Nordic Council
Minutes - Board Meeting of February 11, 2014
Grand Junction, CO

Present: Annie Deprey, Nathan Moreng, Tom Ela, Dave Knutson, Clint Roberts, Winslow Robertson, Anita Evans, Lew Kirkegaard, Christie Ashwanden (by phone), and Callie West (by phone)

Regrets: Jodi Peterson and Christina Stark

Staff: Toby Morse

Guests: Steve Bethka, Ron Thoreson, Eliza Jones, and Anne Wenzel

To Do List:

1. Request volunteers from GMNC members to serve on financial committee.
2. Decide whether to become a GVTA member and determine a representative to attend monthly meetings.
3. Call for coaches for Barnelopet to all GMNC members.
4. E-mail Annie with your job title and company (all Board members)
- 5.

1. Agenda: The agenda was approved.

2. Guest Topics: Eliza asked that GMNC consider becoming a member of the Grand Valley Trail Alliance and send a representative to their monthly meetings. She asked for our input on snow bikes and was apprised of our “no bikes” policy at groomed trails.

Ron expressed his enthusiasm and appreciation for GMNC efforts in support of the Barnelopet. Posters were passed out for the race to be held on March 1, 2014. A call was made for coaches to volunteer for the pre-race clinics.

Anne provided an overview of endowments discussing the ability of non-profits to tuck away assets which would provide money for future expenses based on performance of the funds. She mentioned that this would provide a mechanism for donors to grant end of life bequests. The Western Colorado Community Foundation manages assets over \$40,000,000 for a plethora of non-profits in Western Colorado.

3. Minutes: The minutes dated January 14, 2014 were approved as written. A significant improvement over the previous Secretary’s performance was noted.

4. Financial Update: The Board reviewed Callie's updates to financial statements. Callie requested expansion of the Finance Committee. Annie suggested we put this request out to all GMNC members.

5. President's Report: Annie plans to have these topics covered at our next two Board meetings; governance during the March meeting, and bylaws revised and adopted at our April meeting. Annie is working on grants and needs all Board members to e-mail her with the company they work for and their job title.

6. Skis for Kids: Anita noted 1150 skiers days this year with a significant increase in the number of hours she is dedicating on a volunteer basis. She asked the Board for support to write a grant to fund a stipend for her position with SKF for next year. There will be grant proposals written for additional ski equipment including skate equipment.

7. Operations Report:

8. Race Committee: Tom submitted a list of potential advertisers for our new printing of maps. Annie asked Tom for a shorter race course for citizen's races that kids could use. Tom can use more volunteers for races, but is set up for Winterstart.

9. Hut Committee: Dave reported that he attended a COPMOBA (Colorado Plateau Mountain Biking Association) Board meeting and that they are interested in pursuing use of our Hut over the summer months. This would save us 10 days of volunteer time, deconstructing and constructing the Hut each year.

10. County Line Parking Lot: Dave mentioned that posting events is a challenge without a kiosk at County Line. The Forest Service will be attaching a temporary Board to allow us to post this season. A celebration of the opening of County Line is planned for January.

11. Operations: Toby reported that the crew has really stepped up with both John and Kenton working weekends to get most trails open. Chris Depuy will be joining the crew soon. Ward was groomed again today, yet signs aren't up yet. Toby was asked to contact Art and Joyce to help. Winslow has the signs for Ward. Toby also mentioned his work to gather business memberships. He asked the Board for suggestions for levels of membership, such as banners on website, or Mail Chimp.

12. NRL Race: Christie reported that there were 95 participants the first day and considering the weather with -15 F wind chills, things went well. The Technical Directors for the race were critical of some aspects of the execution by GMNC. Toby mentioned that TDs often expect World Cup performance in organization and execution for NRL races. He wondered whether this level is practical for GMNC in the future. He suggested that we have a discussion about whether to continue down the NRL path or whether to organize events that capitalize on our assets such as early and late season trail and

snow quality. Pam suggested that we need to have a pre-race conference of medical, race course, and TDs to get clear on expectations and implementation. She felt that we were very lucky that more medical emergencies didn't happen or that we didn't have a tragedy given the isolation on the course and time distance to an ambulance or medical facility. Sunday was a better day of racing as the weather cooperated and many racers remarked about how wonderful skiing in the "wilderness" was. Toby noted that many NRL courses are in developed areas with homes and civilization surrounding the course. Christie was not sure how finances worked out, but noted that we need to decide why we put this race on and not do it just for money.

13. Biathlon Course: Christie described a one-time grant opportunity through Colorado Parks and Wildlife for support of a biathlon course. Lew Kirkegaard described other courses in Colorado, how clubs functioned, and his own experience with biathlon training. The grant would pay for equipment and staff time in developing a course on Grand Mesa. One suggestion was to use the existing gravel pit off Skyway trails. The following approach was suggested after discussion:

1. Determine if USFS would support this activity
2. Find a person who would be the champion for this effort and who would be willing to be on the GMNC Board
3. Find a committee of members to work with the champion.
4. Apply for the grant with the above in place.

Lew said that he would be willing to help drive the effort and Christie will contact the USFS to determine feasibility and support.

14. Snowbikes: Christina mentioned that snowbikes are becoming more popular and that using these on our trails may do damage to groomed trails. She also noted that the travel plan for our trails prohibits mechanized use during the winter. She brought this up because she wants all Board members to be apprised of our position and the USFS regulations if any of us are approached about using our trails for snowbiking. Dave cited Callie's quote: "Summer is for biking, winter is for skiing," as summing it up quite well.