

**GMNC Board Meeting**  
**January 10, 2017**

Attendees: Dave Knutson, Winslow Robertson, Clint Roberts, Tom Ela, Terri Stright, Callie West, Jodi Peterson, Christina Stark

Regrets: Nathan Morang

Guests: Dave Poling

Location: Orchard Mesa Middle School, 2736 Unaweeep Ave

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Approve Minutes – minutes were approved.

3. Financial Reports

- Everything in the budget is looking good. The payroll portion of the budget is current up through November. The trail grooming numbers include some of the FS trail work expenses. Race expenses are shown under program supply. Terri can email the expanded report to any board member who wants a copy.
- Expenses: Our expenses for the Membership Coordinator are substantially less than what we spent last year to date. The transition to an hourly salary has been a good change. We are also paying our Grooming Coordinator on an hourly rate now, and we have seen some savings for this position too. The FS fees this year were more than expected. We projected \$300 but spent about \$600.
- Memberships are down as of this time (\$35,436) compared to last year (\$41,884) but we brought in money for the CERF fund that was substantially larger (\$12,662) than last year (\$3,233). Total money brought in is higher than last year for membership and CERF. Some people may have given a generous amount of money to CERF but haven't renewed their membership yet. We will send out a lapsed member reminder to those that didn't give money to the CERF fund in February. We have also received some trail box donations. A deposit of approximately \$600 was made from trail boxes.
- Terri is going to start working with the Finance Committee on a long term financial plan. The plan will address capital and operating reserves. They will work to ensure that our operating reserves are set at an appropriate level and we begin to plan for future capital needs. She hopes to have a plan developed in time for our March board meeting.
- We have money in the biathlon restricted fund account but we don't have a board member moving forward with the program. We had one donation for the biathlon program. Motion to terminate the biathlon program. Motion was seconded. Motion passed. We will ask the donor whether they want their restricted donation refunded, or released to the general fund.

6. Rental Fleet-Delta County is willing to spend GOCO money to help fund a rental fleet. We have spoken with Polly Tucker from Fischer. We are requesting equipment that would only cost \$1500. We need to decide which business would house and rent out the skis. Polly told us that Fischer would give us a duplicate fleet for this year to try out. We could return the fleet at the end of the season or purchase it for 50% at the end of the season. We need to look at the quality of the equipment to ensure that it is adequate. We need to decide if GMNC should own the fleet or if we should try to have a businesses own the fleet. GMNC has owned ski rental fleets in the past. Skis for Kids was one of our major programs for a very long time that supports our mission.

Mesa Lakes Lodge or Grand Mesa Lodge may be able to house and rent the fleet. If we partner with a business then we may need to consider a cost share agreement, liability costs, and rental insurance. This would be a new program that has some similarities to our old Skis for Kids program. We need to complete research to determine a realistic projection for rental demand and current rental rates (\$14 - \$18/day). A business plan would need to be developed to determine how the proceeds would be split between GMNC and the business that rents the skis. We need to determine the constraints in how the money is spent and if there are there other non-profits that would be willing to accept the money and manage the rental fleet. Anita would have some good insight and advice on the costs and logistics associated with a ski rental program.

We need find a program champion. Dave and Clint are willing to work on this effort. Are Callie and Nathan also interested in participating in a committee? Callie is willing to participate. She would like to have enough time to make a well informed recommendation. Christina will discuss costs of insurance with Anita. We should also determine if this donation from Delta County would affect their normal \$3,000 donation that we receive from the county each year?

#### 4. Adult Programs

- REI Trail Tour Update (January 28<sup>th</sup>): REI has offered to pay the fees for the first 30 skiers to sign up. They requested to pay the fee only for non-members because they are targeting a specific demographic. Members would have to pay \$25 to join the tour. This event is part of the Adult Program and is included under our permit. The tour guides will be GMNC instructors. There is a lot of potential for outreach and education at this event. We can offer free participation to some members because we should be able to accommodate up to 45 skiers. We need help with parking for the event. Jodi will be able to help with registration.

#### 5. Web Site:

- Web site updates should be sent to Lisa instead of Christy Eller.

#### 6. Junior Programs

Christina provided an overview of her experience with junior programs and the history of our currently junior programs and the importance of these programs to our community. She is willing to take on

overseeing Gliders next year. The board needs to evaluate our capacity for financial support of these programs. The work that the finance committee is doing this spring on the financial plan will help inform further discussions about investment and support of these programs.

#### 7. Follow-up on Dog discussion - USFS options and proposed letter (see DRAFT letter below)

We need to determine our next steps for moving forward with the request to the FS to have dogs banned from the Skyway trail system. We need to collaborate and work closely with the FS. Dave has drafted a letter to send to the FS that may also be sent to the County Commissioners. There is a recreation meeting next week with the GMUG that we will attend. At this stage it may need to be primarily a public education effort to remind people that dogs are not welcome at Skyway. The proposal right now is to restrict dogs from Skyway and we want to be able to sign the Skyway area. One board member would like for dogs to be restricted on all of the trails except for dog loop. Some suggestions are to restrict dogs through our permit operating plan.

The FS has indicated that they are going to move forward with a public scoping process. We need to decide if we need to send another letter to the FS. We may need to poll our members to get a feel of the perspective of members on this issue. We haven't sent a letter yet. There are interests on both sides of the fence for separating and allowing dogs. We do not groom more because of damage from dogs. The new snowcat is heavier and imprints in the snow from dogs are now substantially lower.

There have been a lot more dogs at Skyway than ever before and are not allowed to place signs at Skyway right now. We need to have approval from the FS in order to be able to place signs at Skyway. The scoping rule proposed by the FS will be specific.

Dave will revise the letter and send it to the board for comments. He would like complete an email vote.

We should ask the FS how members can submit comments and we should notify members about the comment period. We shouldn't advocate for any specific types of comments. There have been some counts on how many parties have dogs at County Line. Estimate 1 in 3 people have dogs.