

**Keweenaw Nordic Ski Club
Board Meeting Minutes
November 20, 2018**

The meeting was called to order by President Jay Green at 7:02 p.m.

Board members in attendance: Jay Green, Mark Roberts, John Diebel, Wayne Stordahl, Jason Martin, Susan Stiffler, and Mark Klein. Keith Meyers and Sandy Aronson were absent.

Others in attendance: John Pekkala, Colin Pekkala, Troy Eddy and Justin Hoffmeyer

Changes to the agenda: paying an invoice from the Keweenaw Convention and Visitor Bureau

Approval of Minutes: Jay recommended that the Secretary also record Board members who are absent from the meetings in addition to those present. Jay also stated that email votes and actions taken by the Board should be included in the previous month's meeting minutes so that these actions can be recorded and approved at the following Board meeting. Mark R. moved that the October meeting minutes be approved. John D. seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Treasurer's report: John D. gave the Treasurer's report stating that \$39,170.29 is in checking and savings. The Capital Campaign balance is \$12,112.22, considerably lower because of the purchase of the John Deere tractor for \$36,000 which has been received and is being used as weather permits. The new Outlander has also been received. The Elementary School Grant has been completed and all accounts are settled, including the payment to Arlyn and reimbursement to Hancock City for his wages on this project. John D. noted that the rate of spending by the groomer is considerable less this year than last year at this point in time. Colin is encouraged to spend what is needed to get the trails in shape, but the reduced expenses are appreciated. Jay and John D. will work on the Equipment Reserve Funds budget. It is likely that we will be on target for the corporate sponsorships. The bridge fund expenses are under-budget so far this fall. Also capital campaign donations continue to come in. There were no questions about the Treasurer's report. It was moved by Mark R. and seconded by Susan to accept the Treasurer's report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Groomer & Trail Report: The new tractor is stored in the Pekkala's new pole barn, and according to Glen Anderson, it is covered by the City's equipment insurance in case of damage or loss. Colin used the new tractor to fix the approach to the boardwalk at the start of the New River Trail near Tomasi Road. The boardwalk has been extended at the north end and now the New River Trail is usable. Mark R. and John & Colin Pekkala used the new tractor to fix the washout on the Gorge trail just downstream of Dam Hill. This is a temporary repair to get us through this winter and will need a more permanent fix next summer. The City has removed the rocks blocking the entrances to the trails around Tomasi Road and Colin has done some tractor work to improve the tread. He also put up a temporary cable and sign to block one trail until trail grooming begins. A culvert has been borrowed from Bill Marlor to use as a temporary crossing across the ditch at Hodge's Road. The Spring Creek reroute has been completed enough to make

it usable this winter, but more extensive tread work will be needed next summer. All trails except for the 3 closed, flood damaged sections are now groomable once we get enough snow, possibly after Thanksgiving. Susan has trail closed signs and poles to be placed on the closed segments. Colin made a preliminary rolling of the City side trails, but more snow is needed. John D. would like to post a potential grooming start date on the Blog, or at least some description of the status of the trails. John and Colin Pekkala leave the meeting after this report.

Public Comments: Troy Eddy and Justin Hoffmeyer, of the mountain biker community, discussed their proposal to revive the Keweenaw Chain Drive mountain bike race for Father's Day, 2019. The Chain Drive was a popular mountain bike race held on the Maasto/Churning Rapids trails for some 20 years when it was discontinued. MTU picked it up for a few years, but has now dropped it. Troy, Justin & others plan to bring it back at Maasto and for the first few years any net revenues will be used as funding to help restore the Maasto/CR trails. After a few years of rebuilding and trail maintenance, there would be a flexible use of funds to benefit the biker and trail community.

They are seeking a partnership with KNSC to benefit from our 501 (C) (3) status since this may be needed for fund raising efforts and donations. Jay mentioned that there are some obstacles that need to be considered and overcome: 1. KNSC's 501 (C) (3) status is as a ski club. 2. The City has agreements for winter use only with the land owners. The old Chain Drive obtained land use permission for only one day from each land owner. KNSC has only verbal agreements for winter land use. 3. KNSC has no insurance and relies on the City indemnification for liability coverage for winter use only. Troy has been talking with land owners and will be checking out the insurance issue, thus he feels he has answers to the second and third issues. Mark R. pointed out that KNSC often does non-ski events (such as the music jam) as fund raising events and helping with the Chain Drive as a fundraiser for the trails should not cause a problem unless this becomes a major focus of KNSC—not likely for several years at least. We discussed if there is really a need for the 501 (C) (3) status and if there is, the KNSC would be willing to help.

The general consensus was for the biking group to get landowner permission and the insurance issues settled and KNSC will help with 501 (C) (3) status and other issues as needed. We can stay in touch with Troy Eddy at troy.eddy@suez.com

Board Secretary: We need to elect a Board secretary since Sandy has not contacted us and has not attended the past three meetings. Keith has been serving temporarily, but is absent so no action was taken on this position.

Appointing Another Board Member: Jay points out that it is desirable to have at most 9 Board members, and we currently have 8, so we should consider who else might be willing to serve on the Board. A few people were mentioned but no action was taken.

MTU Nordic Ski Club: This is a student and community cross country ski club that we have given discount pricing for student season passes of \$25. The pass is split \$10 for KNSC, \$10 for Swedetown and \$5 for Chassell. Jay moves that we continue this policy of providing student

passes at \$25 and Susan seconds the motion. All were in favor and Jay will notify the group's advisor, Mike Abbott.

Web Mistress/Master: Susan has been getting up to speed on managing the KNSC web sites and will serve as the Web Mistress. We need to let her know what needs to be posted and prompt her about things that should be posted. She will get on the Keweenaw Trails List Serve and will update the website. She will work with Dean Woodbeck to coordinate online publicity. John D. will post a message on the old Blog site to redirect people to the new Blog site which he and Susan have established.

Business Sponsors: Susan has built a spreadsheet of our business sponsor and needs more contact names, which we provided during the meeting. She has written a thank you/receipt letter and we suggested some editorial changes. Advertisements need to be put into the map brochure.

Charge Accounts at various retailers: Jay is contacting the various retail establishments where KNSC has charge accounts. Arlyn has been removed from these and John & Colin Pekkala, Mark R., Jay, and John D. will be authorized to use these charge accounts in the future. KNSC has charge accounts at Risto's, McGann's, Auto Value in Hancock, Fastenall and an account will be opened at Swift's.

Budget: Discussion postponed.

Visitor Bureau membership: John D. has received an invoice for KNSC dues for the Keweenaw Convention and Visitor's Bureau membership. We briefly discussed some of the pro's and con's of belonging to this. John D. moves and Jay seconds a motion to renew our membership for \$200. The motion passes and John D. will check with them to reconfirm the benefits.

Gorge: No updates have been provided by FEMA and they are currently reviewing and adjusting the damage estimates. There is no news concerning the Tomasi land sale other than it is on hold since Paul Tomasi wants to wait until Barry Givens is in place as City manager. Jay has seen the proposed trail reroute and FEMA is open to rerouting the trails to avoid future problems.

Gates: Mark R. has the gate posts and will be welding hinges and hardware on them so that they are ready when conditions are appropriate for installing them.

Hay Barrier: The hay bale fence to separate the ski and sled trails needs to be put up. Traditionally, we do this Dec. 1 but with the snow conditions it may be best to put it up earlier. Mark R. will work with Colin and John D. to schedule this and assess the need to purchase more hay bales.

Chalet: Opening of the chalet is not needed until grooming begins and tracks are set. Jay will contact Glen about scheduling the opening and closing.

Landowner letter: Jay prepared a letter thanking the landowners and will get this sent out next week.

Fund Raising Letter: Jay has one from prior years. We need the mailing list which John D. will see if he has or perhaps the Print Shop has it. Susan may help if needed. We need to get this mailed out soon.

Kiosk: Finlandia students designed kiosk for the gate at the fairgrounds. Arlyn was to build it and a roofer in Negaunee had copper for the roof. The plan was too extensive and expensive and should be revised. The City may help with some funding. Further discussion was tabled.

Trail Counters: Our previous idea of using game cameras to count trail users was not very workable, but Jay will look into a simple light sensor system as used by the Copper Harbor Trails.

Joint Executive Director & Marketer: The idea of KNSC and Swedetown working together to get an executive director and marketer was mentioned, but discussion was tabled.

Nature Club: Bekka may continue to do the Nature Club activities on Sunday, but further discussion was tabled.

Removal of Board member: Sandy Aronson has been absent from the last 3 meetings, therefore by the rules of expectations for Board members adopted Nov. 21, 2016, she can be removed from the Board. According to Article VII, Section 4 of the KNSC Bylaws, a Director can be removed with or without cause at any time by a vote of the Board. Jay moves to remove Sandy from the Board because she has failed to attend three consecutive meetings and Sandy verbally her intention to resign. Jason seconds the motion and it passes unanimously.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 18, 2018 at 7:00 pm at the Chalet.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm

Consent Agreements conducted by E-Mail subsequent to the meeting:

John D. moved to pay Eric Issacs \$200 for map work which was seconded by Mark R. Yes votes were submitted by email by Mark R., John D., Susan, Jay, Jason and Keith. The motion passes and John D. is authorized to pay Eric Isscs \$200 for the map work.

Mark R. moved to provide two adult Maasto/Churning Rapids passes to all business sponsors, seconded by John D. After some email discussion about the need and desirability of doing this, yes votes were submitted by Mark R, John D., Jay, Mark K., Susan and Keith. Jason abstained to avoid conflict of interest. The motion passes.

Susan brought to our attention the need to replace the “trail rule” signs that are faded and in poor shape. The Print shop will provide 3 of these printed on aluminum and coated to help preserve

them for about \$167. Mark R. moved and John D. seconded that we purchase these signs. Yes votes were submitted by John D, Mark R, Susan, Jason, Wayne and Mark K thus the motion passes.