

**Keweenaw Nordic Ski Club
Board Meeting
February 11, 2020**

Attendance: Jay Green, Wayne Stordahl, Mark Roberts, John Diebel, Jason Martin, Susan Stiffler, Mark Klein, and Keith Meyers. By phone: Crissy Gerhart Groomers: Colin Pekkala and John Pekkala Guests: Nate Laakonen

The meeting was convened at 7:34 p.m.

Minutes: January 21st minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: John reported that pass sales are doing well and that we are ahead of last year. John indicated that there are no notable expenses. We received \$25 for taking 2nd place in the Heikinpaiva parade. John noted a \$30 expense for storage bins for the Luminary Ski and \$70 for three fiberglass rods for the Ginzu. The stop signs discussed at the last meeting were purchased and plowing has been paid through the end of March. Mark Roberts moved that the report be accepted, and Jason seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Groomer's Report: Jay noted the great grooming job by Colin for the Barnelopet. Colin reported that the trails set up good this morning and John noted it was fantastic today. Colin discussed the towing rig on the Defender noting that he must be careful putting teeth down as belts have been blown the last two years. Fresh snow is easier on the machines. It was noted that Johnny Rudman was ecstatic about the grooming.

Public Comment: Crissy commented that she feels the Barnelopet is a wonderful event for bringing in new skiers. She asked if we could find someone who could bring in skis. Wayne indicated that he brings the skis over from Barkell Elementary.

Chain Drive: Nate was in attendance and reported that there will be a meeting on Thursday. He indicated that UP Health Systems Portage will be the event sponsor for \$2,500. Cycle Carbon will be a secondary sponsor for \$1,000. John talked with Mary Babcock about the insurance and will get her information. Nate noted that the insurance was \$500 last year. Wayne discussed the City's insurance coverage for the Barnelopet noting the language pertaining to the City. The City will be a sponsor if they elect to cover it.

Mark Klein indicated that he submitted a letter of inquiry to the Portage Health Foundation on bike trail rebuilding. If he gets a go ahead from PHF, the grant proposal would come from the KNSC.

Glide 'N Gorge: February 29, 2020, Noon to 3 p.m. **Report on donations:** John indicated the Co-op will provide an appetizer tray and Amie J's will provide 6 dozen cookies. Mark Roberts indicated that Kangas Café will provide cookies. Wayne reported that Peterson's will provide 6 pounds of smoked fish. Susan reported that Pat's Foods will provide a meat and cheese tray. Jay indicated that Econo Foods is providing \$50, Roy's will provide whatever day-old bakery, Jim's

Foodmart will give us something in the \$25 to \$35 range, and 5th and Elm will provide bread. Jay indicated that he would buy oranges, grapes, and crackers with the money donations from Econo and Jim's. **Station discussion:** we are set on the appetizer station; soup and breads are needed for the Gorge, and desserts are needed. John indicated that Jeanne will be doing a soup and 2 loaves. Mark Roberts indicated he will be bringing raisin bread. Wayne indicated he would be bringing beef chili and chicken noodle. What Jason brings is to be determined. Mark Klein will bring zucchini curry. Susan will be working. Keith/Julie will bring vegetable soup and pumpkin bars. Nate will bring white chicken chili. Nate asked about Vollwerth's and Jay explained that home cooked is okay, but the health department has issues with food donations that have to be prepared. Jay indicated that Blair would provide soup as will Glenn Archer. Jay will make contact to verify. Jay noted it looks like we will have nine soups/chilis if Marcia does something. Jay will check with the Rubins. **Ads:** John will get with the Gazette on the banner ad for the comic page. Keith will cover the \$100 sponsorship of Steve Jurmu's Monday Snow Report. Downwind and Cross Country have tickets. John distributed tickets to the board members to sell. Crissy brought up having the City of Hancock selling event tickets in the future. Steve Greenlee at Hancock Bike Shop for sure. Crissy will get with Mary Babcock on the City. Benches for the soup station were discussed. There is one available in the big shed. Soups will need to be at the Tomasi trailhead by 10:00 a.m. on Saturday. What we do the day before will be weather dependent. Appetizers will meet at the Chalet at 10:00 a.m. **Rescue plan:** John and Colin will be available for snowbulance.

Minutes: John noted a clarification "significant revenues" on the item related to the Milwaukee skiers. The amended minutes from the January board meeting were approved unanimously.

Bike signs & workstations: Crissy reported that Travis has sent out an email. Jason was the only one who had seen it so far. This double checks on the location for the signage. Jay noted his support for trailhead signs. Crissy indicated she wanted to get something out there so we could work on the count. Jay stated his support and indicated that the bikers need to decide what they want. The city is working on a map detailing ownership. There will be a bike/ski/hiking logo. Wayne asked if arrows would replace signs. Crissy said no. These are off-trail signs to direct people to the trails. Jay gave the go ahead to have Travis work on the 3 indicators and that the bike people will come up with numbers. The costs are estimated at \$100 for the trailheads, \$50 for the other signs, and \$4 - \$6 for the arrows. There is \$750 available.

Business Sponsors/Multi-Tier: Wickley Agency is the only one outstanding. Keith will follow up. The multi-tier discussion was tabled.

Website: Susan indicated that she added an "In the News" feature where she added the Barkell Elementary story.

KCF Grant Wrap Up Trail Dedication: The dedication of the New River Trail will take place on February 23rd at 2:00 p.m. at the Tomasi trailhead. Cain Besse has indicated he will be there as will Andrew Granville and Erin Minne from the Keweenaw Community Foundation. In discussing the New River Trail, Wayne raised a question about when to allow bikes in the spring. Discussion resolved that it would be discouraged for about a month in the spring.

Heikinpaiva Parade: Reiterated the second-place finish in the parade judging.

Retro-Ski: 13 participated. The skiing was good, and dinner followed at Gino's.

Barnelopet: Jay noted the great organization provided by Wayne. Wayne provided Keith a copy of his summary on the Barnelopet. 52 registered and there were 12 Ski Tigers. 11 participants were from Houghton, 23 were from Hancock, 10 were from Chassell, 4 were from Calumet, 2 were from Atlantic Mine, 1 was from L'Anse and 3 were from Wisconsin. Total expenses came to \$568.80 and donations from the box of \$62.00 reduced the net cost to \$506.80. There were 24 volunteers covered the 20 stations for the event. Comments were very good. A new ski patrol person will be needed next year. Susan indicated that one from Ripley might be a possibility.

FEMA & Gorge recovery plans: According to John, there is nothing new from FEMA.

Tractor Decals: Keith will plan to corner Cain Besse at the trail dedication.

Superior Sand & Gravel Easement: nothing new to report

Gorge Purchase: John met with Will Lytle, Mary Babcock, and Evan McDonald along with Paul Tomasi with the hope of having him talk with Ken Hodges. The talk went okay. Paul did express concern over a near fatality involving a biker. Paul was still interested in selling. He was flexible on sale or easement. He asked for numbers that seemed high. They asked Paul to talk with Ken Hodges. A week later, Ken had convinced Paul not to participate. It is not dead, but an application will not be filed by this year's April 1st deadline. There was discussion about a trail user who had apparently confronted Hodges. Crissy indicated that the city needs to know where the trails are, and users need to know where they cannot go. As Hodges plans to log the Vista Trail area soon, Jay discussed how he will plan to move forward with Ken on the logging/signage. Maybe mark as closed for a period.

Budget: tabled

Copper Country Mental Health request: Liz Holden is seeking instructor/guides for February 27th and March 5th for one to five people. Given the level of difficulty at Maasto Hiihto, this will occur at the Tech Trails. Jay put it out on Keweenaw Trails seeking volunteers.

Shelby Hamar request: With regard to her request to put up signage on the downhill to the snowmobile trail, Colin has put up the stop signs.

Adam Wellstead request: Jay ordered signs for no motorized vehicles to be posted along the snowmobile trail. Jay got 15 and 9 have been put up so far by Colin.

Side-by-Side Replacement: 2021 was the scheduled replacement for the 2016 Defender (5-year schedule). Jay asked Colin for his input. Colin noted the 2016 Defender has 900 hours on it. The 2017 Kodiak has 600 hours, so two more years). The 2018 Outlander has three more years.

The Recreation Commission for next year is coming up next week. The side-by-side should sell with the pods. Colin would list for \$10,000 to \$15,000. We would need to order in June/July. Colin will get a quote. Jay will look at grants.

Next Meeting: March 17, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 9:14 p.m.