

**Keweenaw Nordic Ski Club
Board Meeting
December 14, 2021**

Attendance: Jay Green, Mark Roberts, John Diebel, Wayne Stordahl, Mark Klein, Nate Laakonen, Crissy Gerhart, and Keith Meyers Groomer: Wolf Meingast Absent: Jason Martin

Jay convened the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

Agenda: Jay added Milwaukee Nordic, groomers, and snowmobile storage. Wayne added Barkell and Barnelopet.

Minutes: Mark Roberts moved approval of the minutes. John seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Public Comment: None

Groomers Report: Trails were rolled after the second storm and the tracks set.

Treasurer's Report: \$95,450 balance between checking and savings. Zero balance on credit card. \$993 bill for John and Colin's time. This is for 11 hours for the kiosk and fall time. Paying the bill and then will bill the City for the kiosk (\$190). Business sponsorships are coming in . Gino's is in the mail. Invoices have been sent. No unusual expenses. Day passes probably starting to come in. \$2,700 to \$2,800 for the kiosk. The Poker Run brought in \$468 in donations and had \$50 for publicity. The Print Shop bill for Giving Tuesday mailing will be less than \$200 and ordered another one hundred envelopes for \$34. \$100 for folding. Still waiting on the amount from Giving Tuesday. There is also an expense related to the mower from Advance Auto Parts. The Building Fund will see an \$11,000 increase this year. Wayne moved that we accept the Treasurer's Report. Mark Roberts provided the second. The motion was approved unanimously.

Candle Luminary: We will meet at 3:00 p.m. at the Chalet on the 26th. Jay, Mark Roberts, Keith, Julie, and John. We will need three sleds. The bags are in the Chalet. Jay noted that we will leave the Chalet open to allow access to the bathrooms. John suggested having cookies and hot chocolate outside. Jay indicated that we would look at the weather a week ahead. John indicated that there is a fire pan at the Chalet. Wayne suggested putting one up at the kiosk.

Milwaukee Nordic: Possibly on Sunday, January 2nd. Discussed having food, but this is Covid dependent. Will check on vaccination status. Keith committed to providing pumpkin bars.

FEMA: John talked to Mary Babcock. She wants OHM to stop spending money until we know the re-route is approved. Nothing else new.

Vision: No report. Jay will be calling a meeting in January.

Website: Jay got with Susan and reviewed and updated the website for language on membership as well as dates.

4 Seasons Club: Nate indicated there was nothing new. Dean is looking at things currently. John indicated he met a retired insurance company litigator who is a biker who might be willing to sit in on this. He practiced in Colorado.

Signs/Maps: Jay will be getting with Dean on the Chalet and Tomasi signage. Other signs we need to discuss are related to foot traffic as it is already occurring. John noted a “not walking on the tracks” attitude. Mark Klein noted that walkers are on the snowbike trails as well. Jay indicated that we need to put up the signs Susan suggested and that we put them at all trailheads except the sledding hill. John recommended putting up three at each trailhead. There was discussion about the specific location for each. John will investigate the signage. It was decided that no vote was needed. It was also noted that we should post etiquette in the Chalet as well. Crissy noted how big dogs damage trails like people do. Jay indicated that he does not consider this as big a problem. There proceeded to be a discussion about keeping dogs off tracks and cleaning up after dogs. Wolf noted that the current signs are not as clear as they could be about walking. Jay said to order about ten signs. Wolf suggested having one trail for dogs. Jay indicated that this was tried but did not work. St. Urho’s Loop would be the most logical. John indicated it is hoped the Dog Park will take pressure off the trails. Crissy discussed the possibility of a trail from Hancock Beach to the Sled Hill, but that would need to be plowed. John indicated that there is an issue with crossing a state highway (M-203). Crissy suggested that John talk with Deb Mann. Coming back to the signage, it was decided to have at least one dog sign at each of the trailheads about staying off the tracks and cleaning up after dogs. Nate suggested adding a contact number. John asked about what Swedetown did. Keith mentioned the signs being used at Chassell on the hill be the cemetery. Mark Roberts mentioned no walking signs at Swedetown. Crissy mentioned Marc Norton grooming of walking trails at Calumet Lake. John mentioned pulling Ginzu without the tracks down. Jay asked John to discuss a trail with the City’s Recreation Committee.

Kiosk: Wayne noted that red Xs have been put on the closed trails.

Fall Work: Done

Closed Session: Went in at 8:04 p.m. and came out at 8:05 p.m.

Budget: Still working for January and not much will be changing.

Chalet Wall Posters: Jay and John took care of this with space remaining for events. John noted they mounted the historic map in the hallway. Jay noted that we will clean and clear coat it.

Business Sponsors: We increased numbers, but some dropped to \$150. The total increased from \$6,500 to \$6,900.

Fat Bike Ride: Mark Klein reported that the event on December 4th was a good time. There were between 35 and 37 people participating. \$470 in cash came in and donating through Giving Tuesday was encouraged with another \$330 reported.

Snowmobile: Mary Babcock has received the title transfer for the snowmobile and would like to have it registered by the City. Mark Klein asked if it is okay to keep it at his residence for the winter. This needs to be confirmed with Mary. Jay asked Mark Klein to call Mary directly. John noted that the tractor ended up at the Pekkals'. It was stated that the new DPW director was not keen on the storage of our equipment as storage space is tight for the City.

Glide-N-Gorge: If Covid remains high we will want to do something similar this year. The pictures from last year's event were good for the webpage. 100 to 120 is normal attendance. Last year we had 20 to 30, but the conditions were bad in addition to Covid being a factor. Mark Klein noted that if it were mostly outside, it would seem we could bring back some food. Jay was in agreement. John mentioned the possibility of a pop-up tent with open sides for dessert as an alternative to the Chalet.

Groomers: Kevin Sommers has gotten a rental and is willing to groom. He will be back in January. Wolf will help out until Kevin is available. Wolf noted that last week was busy. He was out for 20 hours. John did more and Colin did track setting. Wolf is willing to continue helping out, but his availability is subject to his mom's condition. John and Colin's time billed by the City is \$993 for 60 hours which \$16.55/hour with payroll tax included. \$15.43 without taxes. Kevin was happy with \$15.00/hour. Mary Babcock said he gets \$13.00/hour. Jay believes John Pekkala should get more than Kevin. Jay suggested KNSC could cover the boost in wages (\$1.50/hour). If 20 hours/week, this was estimated at \$500. Jay believes it will fall in a range between \$400 and \$800. Keith recommended that we authorize the expenditure. John indicated we should exhaust pressure on Mary first. Nate noted that since Wolf is volunteering that we should make sure the City is aware of this. There was a brief discussion regarding the groomer retention bonus which Jay indicated is scheduled at \$3,000.

Barkell: Wayne noted the need for grooming. Jay will get with John Pekkala about this. The number of times will be cut in half. One grooming on Wednesday or Thursday should do it. Jay indicated that he is willing to help. John also noted he will help. Crissy is not sure she will be around. This will begin in January.

Barnelopot: Wayne indicated that he has ordered the supplies from the Sons of Norway

Other: Wayne brought up the re-route of Trail #1 needs to be more clear. John suggested a "return to Chalet" sign. The Twitter account was discussed. Keith volunteered to pick this up. We will need to find the password for the account. There was discussion about the new grooming report. We need to provide feedback about what "groomed" means (rolled? Rolled and tracked? Keith will talk with G.

Next Meeting: January 18th at 7:00 p.m.

Addendum: On December 28, 2021, the KNSC board held an additional meeting in addition to regularly scheduled December meeting.

Attendance: Jay Green, Mark Roberts, John Diebel, Jason Martin, Mark Klein, Wayne Stordahl, Nate Laakonen, and Keith Meyers. Absent: Crissy Gerhart

Jay convened the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

The focus of the meeting was the recent email correspondence from Mark Klein.

Jay noted that the club currently has two drags. One of those was made by Arlyn Aronson and one is at the school. The side-by-side is best for running Arlyn's because it has a bigger engine. The proposed drag would be pulled by a snowmobile. The current pan is 29" and this one is 30" and 48" long. It is geared to snowmobile grooming. The teeth/knives can be adjusted. There is nothing comparable on the market. We will have someone build a pan. Jay asked about the pan price. Mark Klein directed the question to Nate who indicated it would be around \$1,000 to \$1,250. We can get a more precise number from Swedetown. Jason noted the recent steel price increase may push this higher.

The snowmobile account is currently over \$8,000. Looking at a new snowmobile like a 600 4 stroke that would be quiet and reliable. They retail for \$12,500 to \$13,000. John noted that Giving Tuesday brought in at least \$650 for snowbiking.

We can do another special meeting once we have the number for the pan.

John noted that there is \$9,600 before Giving Tuesday.

Mark Roberts brought up involving the City since they have been involved with the ownership.

Jay called for a straw vote. All were positive about supporting these efforts.

Mark Roberts moved approving funding for the drag for the snowbiking trails. Approximately \$1,900 out of the snowbike funds. The motion was seconded by Jason Martin. Mark Klein indicated that he had no objection as long as we have funding for the snowmobile. Next year's purchase would be for a second snowmobile. There was agreement from the board that the general fund support would for the snowmobile would be provided. The motion was approved unanimously.

Milwaukee Nordic: John reported that there are twenty coming to ski with fifteen looking to be fed. Volunteers for providing food were solicited.

Barkell Elementary: Wayne asked if Jay had talked to John Pekkala as school goes back next Monday. Grooming will need to be done ahead of Wednesday.

John reported that the tracks look good today. Kevin Sommers is set to come back soon.

The meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

By email on January 4, 2022, John Diebel moved that we authorize Mark Klein to negotiate a purchase agreement for a new snow bike pan not to exceed \$1,100. The motion was seconded by Crissy. All voted yes except for Keith who missed the email but provided his support subsequently. The motion was approved unanimously.