

SNSC Executive Meeting Draft Minutes

April 20, 2020

Venue: Via WebEx

Present: Gail Motsi, Kate Germin, Sheryl Riis, Ivan English, Jeff Thorpe , Eric Lamb

Susan Wall

Regrets: Kimberly, Brian, Dan Brisbin

1. Approval of Agenda- Motion to approve by Ivan English, seconded by Eric
2. Review Correspondence – CCS Spring Meeting, Radio Canada interview
 - CCS spring meeting postpones
 - Radio Canada interview for Eb's Trails postponed
3. Approval of Previous Minutes: February 24, 2020
 - noted that fees have been increased in the past 4 years
 - Kate moved to approve minutes, Jeff seconded it
4. Business Arising from Previous Minutes
 - none
5. Treasurer's Report
 - Kimberly absent from meeting. Overall a surplus is forecasted, we are still waiting on the arrival of a couple grants including a race grant and an event grant for Eb's Day. Ski at School grant should come at the end of the month but will be less than the previously expected \$3,500.
 - Ivan submitted the report of the Winter City grant for Ski at School to replace the communities grant that was missed.
 - MAP reports have been sent to CCS so money should be coming soon for that.
 - Expense details: machine maintenance is going to be \$4,000 more than budgeted due to an increase in equipment breakdowns.
 - Executive approved maintenance expenses twice between the Feb 24 and April 20 meetings.
 - The term deposit has just been rolled over for now. No additional term deposits were made at this time because of the extra money needed for Gordie Howe facility.
6. Membership Report

- 654 Members in total. Approx ½ of these are families with children. \$15 for each person goes to Nordique Canada.
- So \$60 out of \$100 of the membership fees goes to Nordique Canada
- However, the low fees causes families to sign everyone in the family instead of just the ski participants. This increases member numbers.
- Alison had done a study of membership fees a few years ago – since 2004. In Zone4, a default membership birthday of 1980, so some people just use that birthday and it throws off the age numbers of the members. For 2020, percentage of members by age shows that 30% of the club is under 12, 30% is 30-49 and 30% is over 50. There are not a lot of teen members. Many people join the club because they are putting kids into programs. Thus, a ski facility is very important reason for membership. A strong facility is critical to programs. Alison has learned that NC has put emphasis on athletes, and that is Alison's focus. The athletes are a big part of the future of the club. CCS has a 5 year plan to increase membership and number of participants in programs. The question is always "Why does a person become a member?". Answer: facilities, grooming, programming. Including adult social skiing, instruction and youth programming. The facility will offer indoor training options, a classroom, community. We have 3 options: increasing membership fees, increase program fees, increase member numbers. The other would be looking into increasing sponsorship and funding from the City of Saskatoon. This has been accomplished by other clubs. The possibilities related to a new facility are very exciting for our club. We are going to have a lot more expenses, and cannot carry on as we have been doing and afford a new space. Jackrabbits were free with membership in 2004, and membership has gone up as fees were increased. An increase in fees has never stopped people from joining. To have a great club we could have great programming for adults and kids.
- We do get between \$10 and \$20,000 in MAP grants each year.
- PA has a fee structure that separates out the NC fees to lessen the load on the club. It is a detailed, tedious structure.
- If we removed the family membership, some people would not sign up.
- It seems more important to have higher member numbers than to save money with people not signing up family members that do not ski much.
- The MAP grant is not a fixed amount per person. It is dependent on how many skiers other clubs have. The amount of the grant varies from year to year. CCS money is based on participation and membership.
- We agree that it is important to continue with a family membership.
- It also matters that we are important and growing, not declining in membership.
- Should we have a promotion committee? Over half of the skiers are non-members.

7. Facilities Update

- No reply from FOTB. Ivan felt it wasn't worth pushing. The pandemic has changed things and they are still needing \$5 million and are still fundraising.
- This brings questions about where we are grooming this winter. The construction has to get started this summer, and it does not look promising.
- It seems that we could propose a fee increase at the AGM and make the changes for the following fall. We may not have numbers from FOTB for awhile yet.
- The facility progress is essentially on hold.

- Groomer honoraria – in previous years we have given each groomer a \$100 honoraria at the end of the season. The list would need to be updated. It is intended to be a token of appreciation. It is worth giving the groomers an honoraria, perhaps at par with the coaches.
- Gail moves that the groomers should get a \$100 honoraria in cash. Ivan is opposed and willing to approach Eb's store to ask for gift card donations. Motion is passed.

8. Eb's Trails Update

We have had another successful season of skiing at Eb's trails. We groomed 11 times. Our first was Nov 30 and the last was Apr 11th. Trails were in good shape for an Easter weekend ski which is almost unheard of.

Unfortunately we have had our share of equipment breakdown this season. The Rhino and the Defender are both in the repair shop at present, awaiting parts. Therefore the last two grooming sessions were done by borrowing snow machines, one from the city groomers and one from Cody Watt, our local mechanic. We are thankful to have had access to those machines.

- The roots and stumps are hard on the Defender. The city snowmobiles were hauled out to Eb's to groom on two occasions.

9. Equipment Manager Update

- Brian is absent. Equipment problems have been reported.
- Facilities Grant Application was used for the Defender 3 years ago and this year for the trailer. Is there a piece of equipment we want to purchase and then apply to CCS to partly cover it? No grant application has been submitted. Next year, it will be 3 years and it is possible we could apply for a large amount of money (\$5,000) for a piece of equipment. The deadline for this grant is May 31 and the money is available every 5 years.
- We will need new pulling equipment. Richard and Ken and other groomers think that we need to keep our equipment going. Our equipment could be improved. We could replace

the Skandic with a BearCat. The Alpine is going well but it is really old. It is difficult to drive.

- We could look into other pieces of equipment and use this grant. It is a good idea especially if we are grooming several trails at Holiday park we should have two machines there. Also if we are grooming more areas we will need more machines.
- The grant was last used in 2018, so we have to wait a few more years to maximize the grant money
- Kate feels that applying for equipment is important. There are other pieces of equipment – another roller would be very useful.
- This year we could get a maximum of \$2,500. Ivan to talk to the groomers about the best way of using this grant money, the cost has to be up to \$5,000, CCS will pay for half. Repairs are not eligible.

10. Youth Program Update

120 kids in the program. The numbers were restricted to keep numbers down. Most kids in level 1-4 were kids that had previous jackrabbit participation. The bunnies, which were open to everyone, had marginal attendance. Thus the kids that move on stick with it and go well whereas others do not attend as regularly.

-Time and energy on the organizational level are the biggest limiting factors in what can be offered in Jackrabbits. This size of program is the largest that can be offered with the volunteers and energy available.

-Very successful, especially at the jackrabbit level

-email responses take a lot of time but the volunteer doing this need to be up on the program administration so it is tough to have a person well-versed in what is going on

-Eric still feels a paid administrator is necessary to move forward.

-If we are streamlined at one site, then we could look into having a part-time person, and to see if the new facility makes it easier to manage administration

11. Adult/Hiper Update

- The race season was good for the HiPer skiers. Snow conditions were tough so racing didn't start until late December. Out of 11 races, 6 were accomplished.
- Good participation from Saskatoon with excellent results. Some younger kids traveled out of province to the Alberta Youth Champs. They had a great time. The race group has formed a good community.
- Grapefruit cup has some great racing and a good turnout with a wide range of people participating.

- Robin was coaching a few more skiers this season. More skiers are expected to move to Robin's group.
- The province is looking at changing some of the funding to increase the quality of athletes that come from Saskatchewan. They are looking at ways to use the money to better help the athletes and create more of a TeamSask idea. A provincial team would provide more opportunities for training.
- We need to submit a bid to host

12. Ski At School Update

1,170 kids in 59 sessions were introduced to cross-country skiing through ski at school. It was much harder for Jan this year but she has other instructors helping her.

-How could we capture some of these skiers as members? Is there a way of getting credit for reaching these kids beyond the City of Saskatoon grants. City of Saskatoon grants are credit for this work.

13. Touring Update

No spring hikes due to the pandemic. Otherwise, people met to carpool on Sunday mornings and it was a great touring season.

14. Communications

The website problems are well sorted out.

- Zone4 shows that several people would be willing to help with communications. We need to do a much better job at communications. Program directors address communication related to their programs but there is not a good plan for general inquiries. No one has been assigned to this job. It is an area that could use some improvement. In the past, there had been a publicity position on the board.
- It seems like it is a good idea. Alison has been doing it for years, and we need to be consistent and organized about it. Alison will send out some email and see who might be interested in helping.

15. New Business

- Grooming sites for next season – Ivan spoke with Richard. He is willing to groom again at Wildwood. Ken is willing to groom at Holiday park and hopefully the city will continue to groom their section there.
- There may be people near city centre that are willing to groom at Kinsmen if we have enough equipment. We don't want to make changes until we have Holiday park well under way.

- So it looks at though we will groom Wildwood, Holiday, Kinsemen and Eb's.
- Kate has a list of potential groomers and wonders if we should have a grooming clinic to get the season off on a good foot.
- Gail feels it stretches us too far to keep Kinsmen, others feel we need to keep it. It only takes 2 hours to groom it so long as the equipment is running well.
- We need to re-evaluate in the fall. We can't make changes until we are moving forward with the new facility.
- We need to let the city know that Kinsmen will continue to be groomed next season.
- Fee increase for next season: has been postponed until the fall due to the pandemic.
- It is possible that we increase fees nominally to get close to our goal of preparing for the increased costs.
- We do need to have a proposal for a fee increase to take to the AGM in the fall. It also has to be presented at the registration in fall, which happens prior to the AGM. When we meet in the fall as an executive we can create a plan for a fee increase.

16. Next Meeting Date: Monday September 21 2020

17. Adjournment 9:20pm