

SNSC Executive Meeting Draft Minutes

January 25, 2021 at 7 p.m.

Venue: Zoom

Present: Gail Motsi, Jeff Thorpe, Geoff Meinert, Lane Zabolotony, Brian Suderman, Kate Germain, Ivan English, Susan Wall, Sheryl Riis, Brian Anderson

1. Approval of Agenda: Agenda approved. Kate added business to correspondence.
2. Review Correspondence –Lane: Nothing new to report. There is a new member who offered graphic design skills and branding help. Lane to connect him to Kate and Geoff. Any suggestions to alter Lane’s FAQ sheet should be submitted to Lane by the 31st.
 - Kate: the snowshoe trail leader at Eb’s would like to organize “Leave No Trace’ online workshop and possibly ‘Be Prepared Trekking’ seminars at a small cost per person. We agreed that this offer could be sent to the membership. There was some uncertainty as to the relevance of these seminars to skiers. Kate is going to investigate this further.
3. Approval of Previous Minutes: December 14, 2020. Gail noted a few changes. No one else had comments. The approval will be done via email this coming month due to the short notice of minutes.
4. Business Arising from Previous Minutes (not covered under other items)
 - a. COVID Grant application – Geoff: SNSC did receive the funding for purchasing Team Snap for \$1300.
 - b. Ministry of Environment and Nisbet Forest – Kate: Eb’s Trails is a Representative Area Network (RAN). Ralph wants to help us to further restrict the area useage from ATV’s and hunters. The goal would be to have Eb’s Trails as a Sask Recreation Area, not a Regional Park. To move forward with this, we need a “proof of use” database. Which means we would have to do data collection to prove the intensity and type of use of the area. Brian Suderman will inquire about a trail counting device used by Meewasin. This could be used on the city trails also if we were interested. The rules for tree-cutting at Eb’s currently allows for one Christmas tree per family and deadfall for fuel use.
 - c. Membership/donations signs – Ivan/Brian A. : Signs have been posted at our three grooming locations. General thoughts were that the signs at each ski area could have been bigger. Comments for improvements will be welcomed by Ivan. The current

member count is 1,201 people. A few donations are coming through the e-transfer setup, but not a landslide of donations.

5. COVID-19

Adult lessons and BRT approval – Gail: In discussions between the Business Response Team and provincial sports bodies including Sask Ski, adult cross-country ski lessons were not approved under current provincial COVID-19 restrictions. The Club submitted a request through CCS to review the decision in the case of lessons at Kinsmen Park, and our Club's adult ski lessons were approved provided that participants wear masks. The City had also asked that the Club obtain BRT approval for the use of the Kinsmen shelter for adult lessons, but all lessons are being held outside.

6. City of Saskatoon

- a. Kinsmen storage – Gail: The City suggested that we get a permanent container for storage of our equipment at Kinsmen Park, but are unable to advise us where to put the container because site plans are still being finalized. . A new Parks storage facility will be in place in Kinsmen Park next fall according to City plans. SNSC could likely put a can near to the entrance to the YWCA. There is no room to put it near the new fence. Should we buy a container this year with the Winter Cities grant, and put it in place either now or next fall? The cost of a container would be \$2,500 to \$3,000.

Spring meeting with City Council – Ivan: Ivan had spoken to Mayor Charlie Clark on the matter this past month. Charlie thinks we need to meet with council regarding a review of our grooming, storage, groomers and overall relationship between the ski club and the City. Charlie thought we should push for the idea that Gordie Howe is a dual-use area, including both skating and nordic skiing. As a club, we need to prove that we are enough people to have a voice.

- b. Community Grant Application for Ski At School (2021/22) – an application for this grant has been submitted totalling \$5,120.
- c. Alternate use for Winter City grant (\$4,538) for additional city grooming: Some ideas for this money were brought up: a) honoraria for the groomers b) equipment purchase Rippers have already been purchased for \$900. The Winter City grant money could be put toward this purchase. There are currently 10 groomers working at Wildwood, 6 at Holiday, 3 at Kinsmen. There are more people grooming this year than any other year. Although an honoraria would be appreciated, better equipment would be more appreciated. A new TidTek is \$7,600 for a 6ft and \$8,468 for a 7ft. A new roller would be \$2,000. A 7 ft TidTek would be better for Holiday Park.

Brian has a meeting with the groomers tomorrow. The grant does have to be used for something the city is not already supporting, ie we already have a grooming grant for Kinsmen so we cannot apply the money there. Gail proposes a discussion between Brian and the groomers to decide what equipment is most needed. She suggests that we should not rush into the purchase of a container, a new groomer might be more valuable right now. The money needs to be spent by the end of March.

7. GHSC

- a. Take It Outside Grant – lighting and publicity (FB, Website, Email, Rawlco, Wintershines): It seems that this money was well-spent promoting night-skiing across different media resources.
- b. Update on Jack Adilman grant: no new news.

8. Eb's Trails Update – Kate (written report): Due to the favorable weather the ski trails have been well used. Some weekend days both parking lots are full to overflowing out towards the highway. It seems people are doing pretty well at keeping their distance due to COVID-19. I have rarely seen people using the huts and those times seemed to be a small close family situation. Our Rhino pulling machine (2011) is showing its age. We have had several breakdowns. I believe we are to have a discussion re the club grooming equipment and plans for future needs.

Our wood supply for outdoor firepit was dwindling fast so a group of us replenished it with wood donated by a local sawmill owner. If we need to add more wood we talked about purchasing from the same guy rather than ask for donation again. For discussion. We may also be able to use some deadfall in the area but hard to get at this time of year. We talked about putting a smaller pit ring to encourage smaller fires, hence less wood use.

We had two unfavorable incidents. One dangerous, the second destructive. The RCMP were called and they looked after the guys target practicing with rifles from the front step of the South Hut on a busy ski day. Hours of shoveling took care of the trail destruction from folks getting their vehicle stuck when trying to drive to the North Hut.

9. Youth Programs and Hiper Update – Geoff: There are 210 skiers currently enrolled in jackrabbits this winter. This number could be higher. All lessons are now in full swing. HiPer is happening as per usual, with a province-wide Grapefruit Cup series every week. There are some great door prizes from Eb's this year. There is a CCS meeting tomorrow which will include a discussion of the SaskCup race series. There are no SaskCup race events happening this season.

10. Touring Update – Sheryl: People are continuing to meet at Eb’s parking lot to ski together.
11. Financial Report, December, 2020 – Brian S.: Brian is still learning the financial situation and getting familiar with the spreadsheets. At present, the annual revenue for the club is much higher than what was forecasted in the budget. The expenses are pretty well at par with the budget, with most of the expenses to be rolled out at year-end with coaching payments etc. The financial year-end is June 30.
12. Communications and marketing (website, Facebook, newsletter, ads, media interviews, signage, brochures, donations@)– Leah: So far we have not heard from Leah in this area. There has been lots of website activity and the night-ski publicity.
13. Any Other Business: none
14. Next Meeting Date: Monday March 8, 7pm. Zoom
15. Adjournment