

## MEETING NOTES Overlander Ski Club

Date: Monday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
Time: 7:00PM  
Location: TCC



**Board Members Present:** Charlene Eden, Dana Manhard, Jen Stuart, Luc Guilherme, Rich McCleary, Joan Bernard, Kailee Mortimer, Klaus Mey

**Regrets:** Chelsea Francis, Brad Smith, Dave Hallinan, Maureen Light

**Meeting started at 7:04PM**

### President's Report

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#### Discussion:

#### Board Position Update

- Cheryl is keen to join the board, look for grant opportunities for the club. We will develop a wish list of items that we'd like to seek grants for.
- Could invite Kim to the next Board meeting to see how she fits. She could present herself so we can see how she fits with the Board, then we vote on if she could join or not.
  - o We will invite Kim to the November meeting.
- Two additional people may be interested in joining the board. Jen will reach out to them directly to see where their interests are for joining the Board.
- Would like to have a Ski League Director and Board position – ski league coordinator liaison.

#### Newsletter

- Newsletter was asking for help – 2 people interested in joining the Board, 6 interested in trail cleanup, one interested in volunteering for races.
- Registration and info about keeping membership costs the same will be included in next newsletter. Aiming to send this out mid October.

#### Special Olympics

- Can provide list of positions that will be filled for race, but not necessarily the people who will fill the positions.
- Chelsea reached out to the Special Olympics group asking if they would like to volunteer for the Special Olympics event being hosted in February. Will provide update to the Board once we've heard back from them.
- Special Olympics group will purchase a piece of equipment for the club as thank you for hosting the event.

#### Special Olympics Cross Country Ski Program

- We will subsidize the participants in the program, but will not subsidize the coaches.
- Joan will provide an individual discount code for each of the three participants to get a discounted season's pass.
- Cheryl can look for a grant to subsidize the coaches and the costs of the Special Olympics program.
- Should make a policy / application process for giving out discounts or subsidies in the future. At a minimum, these requests are discussed with the Board, but we will develop a policy going forward.
  - o This is something to consider for the Treasurer as well.

## Report:

### Board Position Update

- Rich McCleary rejoined the Board as the Head Coach Liaison
- Cheryl Beattie Ways and Means Director
- Kim Christiansen would like to join the Board to support business planning. I think there is a need for this, particularly with Lee leaving the Board. If the Board is supportive, I can ask Kim to join us on the Board.
- We still have the Ski League Director and Communications Director positions vacant.
  - o Joan raised at the last meeting that there was a person on Zone 4 who was interested in supporting club communications. I suggest we reach out to that person to see if they would be a good fit.

### Newsletter

I was able to send out my first newsletter to the club on September 25<sup>th</sup>. There was a bit of a learning curve with this, particularly with the distribution list. Through the newsletter we have had 2 people with interest in joining the Board, 6 people interested in trail clean up and one person interested in volunteering for races. There are a few topics that I didn't include in the newsletter, due to my learning of the program (registration and info about memberships costs) that I will include in the next newsletter. I am aiming to get this out by mid-October.

### Special Olympics

- Luc and I met with the Special Olympics group in late September. We are working through the trails we will use for the event to meet the needs of the racers and impacting the network as little as possible.
- A liaison for this event is still needed. Chelsea is going to reach out to Marilyn McLean to see if she may be able to take this role on.
- We need to have a list of who will be volunteering for the main race positions by the end of October if possible. I will reach out to those that have the officials training and those that are taking the course in November to see if they are able to support the event.
- The Special Olympics has noted that they would be able to purchase equipment that would support the race that would remain with the club such as timing equipment, starting gates etc. We will need to get them a list of what we would like as soon as possible.

### Special Olympics Kamloops Cross Country Program

- Marilyn McLean has reached out to see if the Club would be able to subsidize participants in a Kamloops Special Olympics Cross Country ski program. They would be providing their own coaches for this (Gina and Curtis Howell).
- I have indicated that we would pay for the 3 participants that would be involved in this program but we would not pay for the coaches memberships as we don't currently pay for memberships for any other coaching volunteers.

## Volunteer Report

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### Discussion:

- Some trails have been completed, but Klaus had to go over them again. Will work with new volunteers to ensure expectations of how the trail clearing should be done are clear and well laid out.
- Approximately half to two thirds of the trails are done.
- Done Hoss, Quick Draw, Tumbleweed, Sidewinder with chainsaws.
- Tim is working with BC Wildfire crew to fall danger trees, move trees off the trail.
- Had chainsaw course – 3 groomers come out and one new person.

### Report:

- We have about 25 more new volunteers this Fall, with a few trickling in as a response to Jen's newsletter.

- Hoping to get most of the new volunteers trained this weekend for trail clearing.
- Chainsaw course happened October 1, I'll let you know how many participated after the course.

## **Agenda Items**

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### **1. Ukrainian Newcomers (Mey)**

I am a tiny bit (can't commit too much because my volunteer coordinator role is very time-consuming right now) involved with the integration of our new Ukrainian neighbours into Kamloops life. Most of the newcomers are mothers with their kids and some grandparents (as the men had to stay behind to fight). With Ukraine being a winter country, I was thinking of seeing if there was any interest from the newcomers to cross country ski.

Would the club be open to the idea of providing free ski passes and rentals or at least reduced pricing? Most of the newcomers have little money and they are getting very little government support as they are not refugees. They all have 3-year work visas. Many of them are getting jobs. They are new to Kamloops and Canada as a whole. In general, they are all quite stressed about the situation at home. Providing moments of fun and distractions for moms and kids in our winter environment would be a good way of making them feel welcome and forget about their fears for a few hours.

At the moment, we have about 108 newcomers from the Ukraine in Kamloops. I have no idea if they are at all interested in skiing but wanted to ask the club first before reaching out to the families. Ideally, we would even try to link some of them with their kids into our ski league. They would probably also benefit from transportation (i.e. going up with others).

#### **Discussion:**

- Approximately 110 people from Ukraine right now, mostly single mothers with kids.
- Could have someone as a liaison with the Ukraine support group. Liaison person could develop a proposal and bring it to the Board.
  - o Klaus could be the liaison with the group, determine if there is interest.
  - o Klaus would bring a proposal forward to the Board after reaching out to the Ukrainian group.
  - o Would have to ensure any kids are treated like others in the Ski League, if they are being a part of the league.

### **2. Review of PacificSport Annual Report (accepted by PacificSport on Sept. 22, 2022) (McCleary)**

#### **Discussion:**

- Have always received a grant from Pacific Sport – funding for community sport organizations in Kamloops.
  - o Receive an annual grant for coach wages - \$5,000, and the club matches the grant for \$5,000.
- Typically use grant funding for wages for Ski School instructors – some flexibility with PacificSport folks.
- In annual report, show that we receive \$5,000 grant, and show that we spent at least \$10,000 on coach wages.

### **3. Outstanding item due to PacificSport – Coach Contract (McCleary)**

#### **Discussion:**

- Board reviewed the Head Coach Contract together with Rich.
- Discussion without Dana (current Head Coach):
  - o Most grants and funding are in support of paid positions.
  - o As we grow as a club, having a permanent, paid head coach position is something that we should likely do in the future.
  - o Need to select the right timing for having the paid head coach position.
  - o Dana is currently the coach of the coaches, along with the race team athletes.
  - o Interest in coaching is currently dropping off. Last season, we had approximately 30 interested in coaching. This year, we have 9. Lots of drop off since last year.
  - o May need to set expectations for Dana and ski league participants. Eg. Cap on participants, finding more coaches.
  - o Need to support Dana in doing his role, but would like to make sure that the Board is supportive of paying for this position.

- In the future, we could identify additional positions that should be paid. Could search for grants to support this.
- This growth will come with accountability piece – outlining expectations, roles, responsibilities, etc.
- Dana would be covered by CCBC insurance as a coach and member of the club.
- Future document will be drafted outlining roles, responsibilities, expectations between Dana and the Club.
  - Can get additional guidance on risk from other clubs or sport groups in Kamloops.

**Motion by Rich for the Board to accept the draft contract for Dana’s coaching role until March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023. Seconded by Jen. No discussion. Motion passed. (Note Dana was noted included in this vote)**

#### **4. Board Criminal Record checks (Stuart)**

**Discussion:**

- May need to draft a policy outlining that people don’t have a criminal record.
- Attestation may not be enough to say that someone doesn’t have a criminal record.
- President could have a meeting with each individual person where they show the results of their criminal record check.
- Both criminal record checks are available for free.
- Board is liable for anything that happens financially.
- Jen will write an email to all Board members saying that everyone needs criminal record checks.

#### **5. Grant Opportunities (Stuart)**

- What is the clubs wish list to help us look for potential grants?
- What are our existing grants and what, if any, information do we need to provide for them that is outstanding

**Discussion:**

- What is our wish list as a board for items that we’d like grants for? Cheryl will look for grants to support the wish list.
  - Overall trails plan
  - Development of a plan for day lodge
  - Parking lot
  - Waxing building
  - Side by side
  - Transportation option – shuttle service to the Club, or shuttle to drive racing kids to races
- Board and committees will make/finalize list of desired items with some additional details to send to Cheryl.
- Cheryl will also identify what we have commitments for in existing grants – will connect with Maureen on this.

#### **7. Paid Ski League Coordinator (Stuart)**

- We will pay for Ski League Coordinator position again.
- Jen would like to post for this position sooner rather than later.
- We will use last year’s job description, update a bit and post.

**Motion by Jen to increase the budget for the Ski League Coordinator to \$5,000. Seconded by Dana. No discussion. Motion passed.**

#### **8. Nordic Pulse (Stuart)**

- Information on Nordic Pulse is somewhat incomplete information. Last year, Nordic Pulse didn’t include information on if the classic tracks are groomed, sometimes only shows if skate tracks have been updated.
  - Will ask questions on if there are options to include classic and skate grooming updates.
- Would like to be able to put comments in manually.
- Will have conversation later on about if we should renew the subscription or not.

- Need to determine if Nordic Pulse will offer the features we will or will not be able to have.
  - o Could ask trails committee what their recommendation is.
- Regardless of what we're doing, we need to communicate with membership what's been groomed or not this year.
- Grooming information could be communicated better between groomers and ticket booth.
- Should be clear as to why we are or are not grooming.
- Nordic pulse can be used as main source of information, but we also need to make an effort to ensure we're diligently communicating the grooming multiple times per day or as necessary.
  - o Chelsea can ensure expectations are communicated with staff throughout the season.

#### **9. New Board Members**

The Board voted unanimously (via email) for both Rich McCleary and Cheryl Beattie to join the Board.

**Meeting ended at 9:23PM.**