



OSC Board of Directors Meeting

Date:	Monday, September 13 th , 2021
Time:	7:00 pm
Place:	Zoom Meeting

Directors Present: Vesta Giles, Maureen Light, Joan Bernard, David Hallinan, Lee Card, Dillon Stuart, Tim Cole, Dana Manhard, Kailee Mortimer, Brad Smith, Rich McCleary, Luc Guilherme

Staff Present: Chelsea Francis

Meeting called to order at 7:06 PM.

1.1 Discussion - President's Report

General Updates:

- We received another grant to put towards lights.
- Groomer details will be finalized shortly.
- CBC interview went well. We would like to invite CBC to groomer roll out party.

Logan Lake:

- **Motion by Vesta to give Logan Lake members of the Highland Valley Outdoor Club a discount.**
- Discussion: We received a verbal request for trails discount, as they will only be able to groom 2 km of trails.
 - What is authority of club to grant discount to members of club vs. other individuals? Why are we giving them the discount over other clubs?
 - Don't want members of their club to have to pay for 2 memberships – theirs and ours as the trails are burnt down.
 - This would be a good karma/good will action rather than a concern about money.
 - Note that Logan Lake has reciprocal agreement with us already.
 - We should be consistent with discounts from one group to another.
 - If we were in this situation, we would appreciate our members getting a discount. It's in our mandate to provide skiing access to all.
 - Note that we have never extended any form of benefit back to our members when the season hasn't met expectations.
 - What are the unintended consequences? Own membership may discover that we've done this, not be happy as it's unclear why we're doing this for Logan Lake.
 - Important to be neighborly, we have a fair amount of money, would like to encourage others to go skiing.
 - We already have a 25% reciprocal agreement with Logan Lake club, this is the kind thing to do. Maybe friends will come with them to ski, we would have more new people on our trails.
- Note that we haven't received anything in writing from their club. We should get something in writing which specifies how long will this be available for. Clarify that this will be for a specified amount of time. Feels like this is very nonchalant, there's nothing of substance with regard to what we're trying to satisfy.
 - Need contract with terms, conditions, etc. with Logan Lake.
 - Suggest that we give them a punch card to ski.
 - Suggestion of 25% off for Logan Lake members.
- They're looking to expand the club – ski league, coaches, etc. We've previously had a really good relationship with them. Financially, this has no impact and little risk to our club.
- **Motion not to go through tonight.** Vesta will ask for a formal letter and what they feel would be fair.
 - Will provide an update to the board once more information is received.

Groomer:

The paperwork and financing arrangements for the groomer are just about complete. Once they are finalized, I'll be signing the papers and the process begins.

Logan Lake:

I sent this out as an email to get some feedback and there were concerns that giving Logan Lake skiers a deal on memberships for this year would be either setting a precedent or would be causing us to lose revenue given that we are purchasing a groomer.

I would like to see us offer members of the Highland Valley Outdoor Club a discounted membership rate for the 2021 / 2022 season due to special circumstances.

- We already enjoy a reciprocal agreement with them (25% off day passes).
- I checked the 2020 / 2021 membership list and there were 2 members from Logan Lake. This means potential loss of revenue would be approximately \$300.
- If we anticipate potential new members from Logan Lake as possible revenue and argue that offering them a deal means losing potential revenue from members who would not have joined us if hadn't been for the fire, then the perception is that we, a club that everyone saw with record numbers and therefore profits last year, are greedily looking at their disaster as a means for us to generate more profit. Public perception has a huge value / cost.
- We routinely give out trail passes and punch cards to any organization that asks for prizes for their fundraising activities. If loss of revenue is our argument, then we should not be offering these donations either and the same goes for reciprocal agreements as they could be perceived as causing a loss in revenue.
- Many people from Logan Lake have recently started following us on social media so there is an assumption that they will become members this year.
- The HVOC, which "might" be able to groom a 2km loop of trails, is currently having a membership drive so that they look better for grants. They are considering major club infrastructure and trail enhancements and are looking at having programs and possibly hosting events that our members may enjoy attending in the future. Fostering a positive and supportive relationship now could have many benefits for us down the road.
- CCBC is having another club membership drive this year. An influx of members this year could result in us winning again and putting funds generated from prizes into a travel fund for the racing teams.

I'm hoping we can offer them a rate that would both cover our CCBC fee and offer them a discount as long as they have purchased a membership.

3.1 Discussion – Publicity Report

Club Videos:

- We should create an etiquette video for new members. Would be great idea to have video, keeping it fun and light, just showing what to do and what not to do on the trails.
- Would be good resource for new members who aren't familiar with trail etiquette.
- We should put lots of thought into it so that people (new members) don't feel accused.
- Some members and long-time skiers think we should keep the trails to ourselves, but we need to be welcoming to new members.
 - Suggest that these people could go out to the outer loops where there's less traffic.
 - We need to show that we're tolerant, welcoming and supportive of new skiers.
- Creation of a video would cost approximately \$2,500 through Vesta's company, and we could have a social media piece as well.
 - Eg. Single picture and text with a suggestion / rule.
 - Could have signage in certain places on the trails.
 - Sign with top 3 rules/etiquette suggestions might be good idea in the parking lot, as a reminder for skiers.
 - There's a sign in the machine shed showing this already.
- **Motion by Dave to set aside \$2,500 + \$500 contingency (\$3,000 total) for production of etiquette video. Luc seconds. No discussion. Motion passed.**
 - **Note that Vesta abstained from the vote due to a conflict of interest (her video company).**

CBC:

I was interviewed on CBC last week after it was announced we received the TNRD grant for the lights on the trails. They asked about Logan Lake and our worries about fire, and we also talked about renaming 2 of the trails and the new trails we are putting in for this year. I expect we will receive a lot of media attention this year after how last year worked out.

It would be good to invite the media for our groomer warming party when it happens.

Videos:

To add out our video collection I would like to propose an "etiquette" video, which was requested last year, in the same tone as our fun beginner basics video. This would be 3 or 4 minutes talking about how we handle etiquette on our trails.

If my company does it, we can do it for \$2,500. I can get quotes from other companies if you'd like.

Social Media:

It might also be an idea to create a social media campaign around etiquette which would include an image and text that highlights a specific point. Along those lines we could also pull-out little sound-bite sized video clips with one element of etiquette that we can post on Instagram and Facebook. There would be an additional editing cost for that.

3.2 Discussion – Registrar's Report

- Zone4 now has membership cards that can be printed off.
 - Can note on the online registration that people having trouble printing cards off can email Joan.
 - We would be ok with deleting participation agreement from registration (website).
- Could advertise that coaches and registration booth employees are double vaccinated.
- Could we add in membership type to the season pass card (ski vs. snowshoe)?
 - Joan to check / confirm if this is possible.
- We will have limits of 20 for each of the ski school classes, with waitlist.
 - Adult ski lessons will be available.
 - Can add in booking option to website.
- Vesta and Chelsea will update the website to include open board positions.
- Joan will see about including more options on membership cards.
- Joan will email Vesta and Lee to update the website and social media announcing registration.
- Chelsea will update social media with registration opening.

Registrar's Report

Opened a new registration in zone4 for this year to start editing.

4.1 Discussion – Ways and Means

- We received in TOTA grant and the TNRD grant for lighting.
- Working on Blazers sports Legacy grant. Have 2 applications submitted, are expecting to have 5 submitted soon.
- With new grant money, we have considered exploring lighting Hoss, installing solar panel for 1 light pole with camera in parking lot.

Ways and Means Report

We have money for lights with grants from TNRD of \$34,000 and just over \$70,000 from Tota. A plan is in place for lighting.

The application for Capital Project from BC gaming has been sent in and we should hear in November or December.

5.2 Discussion - Trails Committee:

- Started building trails this week. 15km of new off-piste trails, 5km of new snowshoe trails.
- Chainsaw safety course being coordinated by Klaus Mey.

- **Motion by Vesta to spend up to \$1,500 on chainsaw safety course. Seconded by Tim.**
- Discussion: This cost used to be in the budget. Is this not in the budget anymore?
 - We have a simplified training plan in the budget, this can be updated to lay out what will happen with the money each year (e.g. Chainsaw course, first aid).
 - Will be specifically in budget in subsequent years.
 - We can build a comprehensive training program in future years.
 - **Motion passed.**
- Green trails could be realigned. Ponderosa and Cow Poke have some bad/difficult areas where people crash.
 - Ponderosa would be very easy to realign.
 - S-curve at bottom of cow poke would be more expensive to fix.
 - Many people agree that these trails should be fixed – important for beginners to be able to easily ski on these trails.
 - Some of the issues could be fixed with grooming.
 - Could add warning signs to these areas, alerting skiers at the top of the hill.
 - Fixing the trails is the right thing to do for our membership, especially with new members.
 - 2 people broke their arms on Ponderosa last year, they weren't beginners.
- Board is supportive of modification to make Ponderosa safer.

Trails Report:

New Trails:

New Off Piste/Bush Trails all surveyed, mapped and clearing started on Saturday. Have hired a crew to do the saw work on the trails and will utilize volunteers when possible to clear the trails of cut debris and I have been coordinating with our Volunteer Coordinator Klaus May. Machine work starts in a week or two. New snowshoe trails were also surveyed and are ready to be cut.

Chainsaw Safety Course:

We have interest from new volunteers to get trained. Course is \$1500 and we will need Board approval. We no longer have Gary Plante leading our saw group so we need new recruits to be part of, and lead this group which includes firewood cutting. Klaus Mey is coordinating.

Lights:

All materials for the new lights (Bronco Loop) are on site and they will be going in once we coordinate with our machine contractor. Will be complete around the end of Sept.

Green Trails Re-alignment:

There has been some discussion about two sites on our Green Trail network that are not "Green". These sites are the Ponderosa dip, 250m east of Hoss junction, which probably claims the most crashes on the network, and the S-corners at the south end of Cowpoke, about 500m west of the Drifter Junction. I have assessed both these sites for the feasibility of realignment and they can be done. Ponderosa will be an easy fix and Cowpoke will be more difficult (costly) but doable. We currently have funding to cover this and will have equipment on site that can do it. Ponderosa would be a priority for me as it gets heavy use and has lots of sizzmarks all season. Discussion?

Fuel Management Update:

The Ministry and its consultants have identified an area within our network that will be a priority for fuel management/wildfire mitigation in the Stake Lake-Lac le Jeune area. This area is generally south of the lake in the mature timber (Inner Trails). I have been given an opportunity to comment on the plans and it looks like we can modify the area to include the shop and lodge. I have an onsite meeting with the consultants this week. More to come.

5.3 Discussion – Ski League:

- Lynda Ritchie isn't interested in being ski league coordinator this year. Pretty big job, many facets to it. We will have to put together a job description.
- Numbers of coaches are down. May have to limit number of ski league participants if we can't find any other coaches.
 - Could consider adding a fee if you don't volunteer for X hours per year. If you volunteer, you have reduced membership rates, higher if you don't volunteer.
 - Could ask Logan Lake parents for volunteering support.
 - A lot of the volunteer participation is how we promote the culture of the club.
- We will have to review COVID protocols, but we should see how advice from province changes in coming months.

- Will likely limit each group to approximately 20 athletes.
- Dryland has started.
- We should create program for new to sport kids – e.g. 9 years old, but new skiers.
 - Other clubs have “bridging” program. Would be good to find coach for this.

Ski League Report:

- We are on the hunt for a new Ski League Coordinator, after many years of dedication, Lynda is stepping down.
- We are down a number of Coaches and will have to recruit again this year. We need to get the word out on social media and in the newsletter.
- If we don't get more coaches or a coordinator, we may have to modify or cancel some levels.
- We need to review our current covid plan and protocols to ensure it is inline and up to date with current requirements.
- Dryland training is starting up for the Track attack groups and above.
- Given the coach situation, we suggest that registration for each level be capped at 20 athletes, with a waitlist option, and disclaimer the program is subject to finding coaches.
- Once we have a coordinator and coaches we can open up the program to more athletes.

5.5 Discussion – Junior Development:

- No fluorocarbon waxes being used for races anymore. This will require the club to buy all new waxes without fluorocarbon.
 - Would cost several thousand dollars to get all new waxes.
 - Would take some time to get wax order – would take up to 1 year.
 - Previously we've paid for these costs of wax. We will continue to pay for these costs.

No Junior Development Report.

Approval of Groomer Meeting Minutes:

Vesta motions to approve minutes from groomer. Luc seconds. No discussion. Motion passed.

New Business:

COVID Safety Plan:

- Deferring discussion until next meeting, as province has more info for clubs.
- CCBC won't commit to shared accommodations for vaccinated / unvaccinated folks.
- Suggest closing the day lodge. Would remove stress of having to check passports, etc.
 - Whatever we decide, we need to decide soon as we will be hiring.
 - Washrooms will need to be looked at in terms of having passports.
 - Could just have mask mandatory.
- Requirements may change in coming months.
- Not unreasonable for staff to have vaccines.
- Chelsea to find out how many staff are vaccinated.

Website:

- Everyone should work to update their sections now that we're done with the groomer.
- How will we be updating the website and keeping it current?
 - One part-time staff could have time added to their hours to update the website.

Survey:

- Instead of having a new survey, the survey committee should review results of CCBC survey and create a list of action items.

New Treasurer:

- One person has shown interest, we will reach out to her this week.
- We want to have new treasurer very soon.

Lisa's CANSI course:

- Would like to run the course. All separate from us. Just needs permission to do it on our trails.
- This is ok based on discussion.

New Business:

- We should show our gratitude to Mike.
 - Could buy pass for club in PG?
 - Could send nice card to Mike.
- Vesta will add piece about Mike in newsletter.

Meeting adjourned at 8:23PM.

Minutes recorded by Kailee Mortimer.

Next Scheduled Meeting Dates (Held via Zoom)

October 4th, 2021

November 1st, 2021

December 6th, 2021