

Grand Mesa Nordic Council  
Meeting Minutes  
2/3/2009, 6:30 PM  
First National Bank, Delta, CO

In attendance: Diane Winger, Charlie Winger, Jan Mueller, Ruth Wild, Fred Wild, Christie Aschwanden, Dave Aschwanden, Kenton Shaw, Tom Ela, Winslow Robertson, Dave Knutson, Al Fournier, Suzi Evans, Christina Stark, Annie Deprey, Ken Pill, Anita Evans, Jane McGarry  
Presiding: Pres. Christie Aschwanden

Diane Winger:

Diane presented information she had gathered regarding instituting a web-based donation/payment option for the GMNC. Two services were outlined and discussed by the Board, Paypal and Google Checkout. The money paid through either service would be direct deposited into the GMNC bank account after fees subtracted. Tom made a motion and Jane seconded to authorize Diane to set up an account for the GMNC with Google Checkout as the preferred choice in coordination with input from Ruth Wild, Suzi Evans and Dave Knutson with the understanding that all required membership data would need to be captured for memberships paid this way. Motion passed.

Jen Mueller:

Jen attended the meeting to discuss snowshoeing issues. She is a regular user of the GMNC trail system although primarily to access ungroomed terrain. She identified various snowshoe trail possibilities around Skyway including across the highway from Skyway. She attributed snowshoe problems on the trails largely to new users. Discussion followed regarding snowshoe impacts and possibilities for mitigating that by either education or separation. The USFS moratorium on new trails due to lynx habitat was noted as was current and past efforts at promoting trail etiquette.

Minutes:

A motion passed to accept the minutes of the previous meeting with the one correction that Jane McGarry be included in the list of attendees.

Budget:

Ruth presented the various budget reports. Suzi asked that the Board remove the deficit shown for the Races category to bring the budget back into balance. After discussion Dave K. made a motion and Jane seconded to move \$200 from the Skyway Operations category into the Races category to remove the deficit. Motion passed.

After that correction, Anita made a motion and Jane seconded to approve the budget reports. Motion passed.

CDOT Meeting and USFS Meeting regarding parking and safety:

Christie reported on meetings with the Colo. Dept. of Transportation and the U.S. Forest Service. She reported that a new and reconfigured County Line parking lot was a good possibility within the next few seasons. The most immediate possibility was that funding might come from the new Federal Government economic stimulus legislation. If that did not materialize, then the USFS was prepared to apply to the Scenic Byways system for one of their grants. 20% of the total cost would be required in matching funds equaling approximately \$95,000. "In kind" donations could be used to help meet that requirement. The GMNC could help expedite the project by helping to raise the matching funds. It appears that the Forest Service is motivated to move the project forward.

For help with the current dangerous County Line parking situation, Christie reported that CDOT would try to push back the high sight-blocking snow barriers when budget allowed but could not promise much due to a severe budget crunch. They would have a traffic engineer review the situation and consider adding warning signs. The possibility of using the GMNC snowcat for supplementing the plowing was brought up. Winslow noted that plowing is very hard

on the machine and should be avoided if at all possible. It was also noted that parking on the South side of Highway 65 opposite the County Line parking area is currently illegal and subjects anyone parking there to personal liability for accidents.

#### USFS Other Issues:

Annie reported on discussions with the USFS. She reported that the current USFS Permit restricts scheduled lessons on the weekend because the capacity of the area is already being met. However, she said the USFS was willing to negotiate on the issue. One possibility was to schedule lessons during under-utilized times of day.

She reported that the USFS is open to allowing a warming hut structure but to grant approval would need a detailed proposal covering site, structure and plans for maintaining. It would be mandatory to remove the structure during non-skiing season.

Annie noted no real changes could be made this season but that these issues could be addressed when applying for next season's permit.

Annie requested ideas for grooming a large flat area soccer-field-like for the Gliders program. She said the USFS did want that done in the bottom of the Arroyo because it is a wetland area.

#### Suggested Trail Fee Sign:

Dave Knutson presented a sign idea suggesting a \$5 trail donation per day of use as a way to increase trail box donations. Suzi felt strongly that there should not be an actual amount suggested. Discussion followed. Dave K. made a motion and Suzi seconded that language for a sign should be submitted to the USFS for approval that did not include an actual suggested amount but would have the rest of Dave's suggested language and mention actual amounts charged at other Nordic areas. The motion passed.

#### Other Fundraising:

Dave K. reported making phone calls to various businesses that had made past donations to urge them to donate again. He presented a list of businesses he had identified as potential donors based on past donations and asked for volunteers to take a few each and make calls.

He reported that a grant application was in process for funding from the Outdoor Industry Assoc. to be used to purchase a shelter. Another grant application may be made to Smartwool for \$5000.

#### Races and Events:

Tom asked about logistics for the kids' race portion of the Mesa Meltdown based on experience at the Grand Mesa Classic. It was decided that the next kids race would be simultaneous to the adult race.

Plans for the Barnelopet and for the Heart Throb marathon were briefly discussed.

#### Lessons:

Annie requested a report from Al and Christie providing details of lessons given in January to be passed on to the USFS.

Annie gave a quick review of the plans for the Gliders Valentines Day treasure hunt.

#### Skis for Kids:

Anita reported providing equipment for two successful days of kids skiing at the school in Collbran. She said the number of skier days using the program has grown this season from last.

#### MesaStateCollege Ski Team:

Christie reported that she, Dave A. and Al had been coaching the newly formed Mesa State nordic ski team and were encouraged by the potential there. She said that there would be some money coming from the team to help with grooming.

#### Operations Committee:

It was reported that there had been ATVs on the Ward Trail System. Details of the

incursion were turned over to the USFS.

There were 73 grooming hours for January reported at Skyway/County Line. Arranging grooming coverage for Sundays has been a problem.

Building of the new trail from Sunset to Vista is waiting on a biologic assessment and archeological clearance. Winslow reported that it is likely that the timber sale to clear the trail would be probably be marked this Summer. It might take a year for it to be cut. Hope is that it would be ready for the 2010-2011 season but highly unlikely before then.

It was also reported that the USFS is considering a closure to snowmobiles south of the Alexander Lodge road. That would include the Ward Lake area and Ward Way.

#### Full Moon Festivities:

Another Full Moon bonfire and pot luck was planned for Sat. Feb. 7 at 6 PM at Skyway. Announcements would be made.

#### Trail Etiquette:

Jane reported that she had been handing out etiquette cards whenever she was on the trails. She has cards available for anyone that would like a handfull to distribute as needed. Al reported that he thought the etiquette sign placed at the Ward System was having some positive effect.

#### Income:

Suzi reported that income for the season had already matched the total season income for last season with still a couple of months to go. She said membership numbers for this season were on par with the numbers at this point in the season last year. This seems to validate the decision to raise the membership price.

#### Newsletter:

Timing of the next newsletter was discussed. Tom noted that having race results included was nice but not crucial especially with space constraints. There was no decision made other than to let Christie publish the next newsletter when it fit best with her schedule and energy no matter if it fell before or after the final race.

#### Other:

The next meeting is scheduled for March 3, 6:30 PM at the office of Dufford, Waldeck, Milburn and Krohn, 744 Horizon Court, Suite 300, Grand Junction, Colorado. Meeting adjourned.