

Arctic Orienteering Club Board Meeting

February 2, 2005

Minutes

Present at the meeting: Steve Gruhn, Chris Tomsen, David Evans, Sam Pepper, and Andrew Lee. Administrative Vice President Steve Gruhn led the meeting.

This special board meeting was held to address the issue of whether or not to support the bringing in of a facilitator to hold a one time facilitated meeting with the members of the Far North Bicentennial Park Users Advisory Group. Support would be in the form of a contribution of \$60 to help pay for the facilitator. Another goal was to formalize the club's position on trail building within Far North Bicentennial Park.

Steve shared with us Eric Follett's position. Eric and Dick Hawkins have been our club representatives in the Advisory Group. Eric thinks that a facilitated meeting would only result in more trail building sooner rather than later, so he wants to "drag his feet". He thinks that a facilitator will not be hired if there are not at least 8 to 10 user groups that are willing to contribute money. As of 1/25/05, only 4 groups were listed as supporters, so a facilitated meeting might not happen. Eric's idea is that we contribute \$60 to have a seat at the table only if the facilitated meeting is certain to happen.

There was some discussion as to whether or not a facilitated meeting would be to our detriment or benefit. Steve pointed out that we, along with other minimal development groups like (maybe) the Alaska Snowshoe Club and Friends of Far North Bicentennial Park, are, for whatever reason, at the bottom in terms of influence. Andrew suggested that perhaps a facilitated meeting would help keep us from being completely ignored in the trail building proceedings. Which course of action would be the best? We decided to go with Eric's suggestion. A move was made, seconded, and a MOTION was unanimously passed to not volunteer funding of a facilitator with \$60 unless the hiring of a facilitator is inevitable.

The position on trail building that we would take to the Advisory Group, regardless of whether a facilitator is hired or not, was discussed. A move was made, seconded, and a MOTION was unanimous passed to use the following position statement:

Whereas any new trails or other development are detrimental to the Arctic Orienteering Club's ability to set advanced competition courses, and whereas each change on the ground requires the Club to spend money to update maps, the Club vehemently opposes trail construction in high priority orienteering areas. The Club prefers to retain the trail-less sections of Far North Bicentennial Park as is and prefers that existing trails not become wider, but will grudgingly accept trails in areas that are lower priority for orienteering, such as the burn area. If new trails are constructed, the club expects to be compensated for the costs of updating our maps. The Club also requests that illegally constructed trails be deconstructed.

Next meeting: Tuesday March 15, 7 pm, tentatively at the Billmans' house.