

**Arctic Orienteering Club Board Meeting
December 15, 2005
Minutes**

Present at the meeting: Bill Spencer, Eric Follett, Peggy Kugel, Chris Tomsen, Trond Jensen, Dick Hawkins, Cory Smith, Dave Evans, Paul Carson, Dan Billman, Anne Billman, Kimball Forrest, Ellyn Brown, Andrew Lee, Mike Furman, Ian Moore and Leslie Kroloff.

Far North Bicentennial Park Users Group meetings

Dick and Eric have been representing the club at these monthly meetings. Dick might have a problem with attending because the meetings are held on Mondays, an inconvenient day for him.

Bylaws

Kimball noted that the bylaws require all Board members to be USOF members. Andrew seemed to remember that the requirement was struck from the bylaws last year, but he didn't remember the details. Andrew, Peggy, and Kimball will investigate.

Andrew collected signed conflict of interest statements from board members.

Moving the youth membership and meet fee age cutoff from 16 to 18 was discussed. Arguments for the change included comments that 18 year olds do not have any more money than 16 year olds, and simplifying registration because 18 is "adult" for liability/waiver signing purposes. Changing the age for membership will require changing the bylaws, so it should be added to the agenda of the Annual Meeting.

Changing the wording for youth meet fees, currently written free "with paying family member" in the policy guidelines was also discussed. Dave suggested changing it to "with paying parent".

New membership/waiver form

Dave circulated a draft prior to the meeting that fits on one side of paper. Peggy suggested that the form clarify to readers that it needs to be signed only once per year. Kimball suggested that we think about the mechanics of sign in at meets to make the process more efficient. One thought along those lines included adding a check off box for how paid (season pass or meet fee paid) on the start time sign in sheets to better track fees. There was some debate on how useful that would be.

Schedule

Trond has found meet directors for 18 of the 22 meets. Dick volunteered to direct day two of the Orienteering Festival in addition to the beginner classroom training. He will check on the availability of BP Energy Center for the classroom training. Trond proposed making August 16 a training day for the At-Large board members (or other interested people) to be new meet directors.

Halloween-O

The purpose of this meet was discussed. Is it to be a fund raiser for the club, public service to the community (perhaps drawing new members), or a fun social event for the club? Should it be a real meet, a line-O type event, or a combination? How much effort should be put into the decorations? Should it be on Friday or Saturday? It used to be a money maker for the club, but we expended a lot of volunteer effort for a net of only \$231 this fall (and a net loss last year). Site rental fee increases are a big part of the drop (rental fees were \$120 in 2002, \$425 in 2005). Bill thinks that we can pare down on the expenses, reduce the effort a bit, and still have a good meet. Eric, Bill, Paul, and Dick volunteered to a committee to discuss a goal and come up with a plan.

Check signing

We will now require two signers for checks. The four designated signers will be the Kimball, Dan, Eric, and Andrew.

Mapping

The board agreed to plan spending \$10,000, more or less, for mapping activities in 2006. We have about \$23,000 in all our accounts. Ian got some quotes from potential mappers. The cost will be around \$100 per day plus expenses or \$750 per square km. Bill reminded us that quality control is important, so we should check the work as they map. It was also suggested that we look for firms that might be willing to donate mapping funds (or services?) to us. Bill also had a suggestion for the Kenai: Canoe rogaine.

Safety plan

We should have a plan for what to do if someone gets lost or hurt in the woods. This might be as simple as a list of phone numbers of volunteers and ambulances. Ian asked if it would be better to call it something other than safety, perhaps "emergency response plan". A plan could be put on a laminated sheet to go in the meet director's boxes. Some other things to consider include how to deal with bee stings, and the use of whistles. If you have any input, talk to Dick. He will take the lead on this.

Publication of results

We need to develop a better process to get the results done quickly and submitted to the newspaper. The paper usually does not publish results that are submitted more than a day after the meet. Ideas include finding the best way to go from Excel to the text format that the newspaper wants, and getting a person to help with results. Ellyn and Leslie will work on this.

Resource for meet logistics/support

Kimball asked if there would be interest in splitting meet responsibility into two parts: one person can do the mapping and course setup, and another can handle the meet logistics. Can we standardize and improve upon the set up and registration at meets? Kimball asked us to consider if it would be worth paying a person for logistics help, say at \$50 per meet. A potential problem with that is meet directors are volunteers and do even more work.

Lobbying

How should the club deal with requests or suggestions to get involved with land use and development issues? Dan, thinking about the restrictions that are placed upon as a non-profit, noted that we need to be careful about what we can lobby for. The board would need to agree on a position, and that is not a given. The consensus seemed to be to stay out of politics, but continue in areas that affect orienteering directly such as the Far North Bicentennial Park Users Group meetings. Leslie asked about what was OK to e-mail/forward to the membership mailing list. She will send e-mail that is informational only, such as notice of public meetings, and will not present a position.

Orienteering North America magazine

Dick said that we could get our weekly schedule published in this national magazine. It would be a good resource for outside orienteers visiting Alaska in the summer, and give us some more exposure. Trond will look into it.

We could also send them the results of some of our meets, the two day festival in particular. Article submissions are also a possibility. Ellyn has had an article published by them in the past.

Trails development position

We need to develop a position on trail development to use at the Far North Bicentennial Park Users Group meeting. Anne suggested that Eric draft a resolution that we can discuss and vote on. Eric's ideas so far: We are opposed to all new trails in prime orienteering areas. We are opposed to widening and resurfacing of narrow trails because bikers will want new narrow trail substitutes.

Prepared by Andrew Lee, Secretary, 1/2/06, edited 2/5/06