

Orienteering Board Meeting Minutes- 1-15-09 Call to Order 7:23 PM

Attendees – Karl Swanson, Paul Carson, Karen Bronga, Trond Jensen, Cory Smith, Dave Evans, Dan Billman, Ian Moore, Ellyn Brown.

Approved minutes of previous meeting on Nov., 2008

Old business:

The Schedule - All recent changes to schedule made it in the runner's calendar (Ellyn) and PDF version of the calendar downloaded from the website was passed out.

Dave – suggestion to snail mail schedule again? It was \$ 250.00 to send out to 400 people last year. Gained @ 100 addresses last year, now there are 500 addresses in the database. The Yahoo group that gets event information has 200 people in it. Karl Swanson said that in Talkeetna they didn't mail out applications for the Fun run last year, yet they had the most people ever in that race.

Perhaps it's too much work for the value. It was mentioned that it doesn't seem affect the number of entries. The question came up of some how having the schedule emailed and uploaded automatically to people's individual electronic calendars. Trond mentioned that E tickets for flights can send flight updates right to people's individual calendars. Cory asked if one could easily import a google calendar into Microsoft calendar?

Decision was made not to snail mail. No one felt strongly about mailing. Perhaps we will reconsider this in April.

The Healthy Futures site on the Anchorage School District website could advertise the meets and perhaps have a link to our website. Karen will check into that.

Dan suggested that "Orienteering North America" publish our schedule. Trond thinks they only put A meet in now. VP of media will check into it. (Leslie).

Awards/Gifts/Reimbursements.

The host families for Bastian were given mugs.

Kimball will be given an engraved bottle of tequila for presidential services at his meet in May.

The club will give Dimitry Sidorof a check for \$ 800.00 for bike reimbursement. Ian will get Dan Dimitry's phone number and address.

Bear Policy

Open for discussion. Do we need one and what should it include? What would it say? If F & G closes a park then should we be prepared to change the location of the meet? Karen said that at a meeting at CCSC, that the Muni. Parks and Rec. will be coming up with a color alert system. Lets see if they come up with a ranking system, then we will come up with a response plan. (Dan). If there is an issue, the board will meet and make a decision then. Perhaps make sure the meet box has Bear Safety brochures or a sign with such on it.

Trond will contact McCleary at the Muni for their bear policy; Ann will contact F & G Bear education person.

Trails

Future plans of Bicentennial Park. They terminated that committee that Eric and Eeva were on, so basically there is no future planning committee for the park. Dan suggested trying to get a grant to not build trails, to pay the muni the price of building trails, to not build trails.

- The city seldom says no to trail building money. Mountain bikers originally started many trails now used. There is nothing we can do in regards to trail development in FNBP. Perhaps an ordinance level might work, said Dan. Ordinance is another level with a different standard. Buying a non-development easement on a public park. Non-trail parkland initiative. Dan will talk to his friend with the Rasmussen Foundation about this idea.
- Another meeting about Russian Jack Golf Course will be on Feb. 12. If you spoke at a previous meeting you can't at the next one. Karen says meetings have been wildly against the development, yet they continue to schedule public meetings. After the upcoming meeting the Muni. will

choose between 4 plans. A site development plan will come after that. If interested please testify Feb. 12. We as a club have not testified. We can't advocate for a person in a public office but we can advocate for issues. It would be nice if the club spoke.

- Trond will go to the meeting and represent the club, mentioning that it's an important in-city park that we use quite often, The club invested in updating the map of that area, (hold up the map) and these maps cost \$ 15- 20,000.00 to make. We get thousands of participant hours a year at cities parks; we give a lot in fees paid to the Muni. per year, several thousand a year for just running in the woods. (It's hyperbole that counts in speaking out). This is an especially kid-friendly venue. Trond would like some bullet points sent to him in advance of the meeting, in addition to those mentioned above.

Dan reminded us that the O club stood in front of the meeting many years ago when the city wanted to put the Native Heritage center in FNBP. Dan said that the club made good points per Fred Dyson, and the Center was not put in FNBP.

Ellyn introduced the new Girdwood ski trails. Cory said it would be good to individually show support for this project, as a way to support ski trails that are outside of our Orienteering areas. Ellyn will forward the email from Deb Essex with the information on writing letters of support.

NEW BUSINESS

Mapping

-Re-advertising for a mapper: Dan moved to re-post the same ad as last year in Orienteering North America again for two months this year. Paul seconded. Other alternatives? Karl got no response from his friend Todd per the last meeting. He'll contact him again. Bastian showed no interest in coming back to AK. Could we use him as a recruiter? Ian will email him and thought that we wouldn't benefit from the advertising. There were only 3 – 5 mappers in the US last year. We could try writing them again. Perhaps with the recession there will be more interest. Ian will contact some mappers in the US from last year. Most were booked last year.

Individuals could pool miles, for a plane ticket. Our track record is 50 % so far with hiring mappers; we've had one good experience and one bad experience.

6 votes to advertise, 3 opposed. Dave will get a copy of the Ad to Trond, and Trond will send it to O North America.

Jim Green said there is a map of snowmobile trails at Beach Lake, and wondered if it was a place we could get an O map made sometime in the future. Some is Muni. Land and much of it is military land. The Alaska Railroad bisects it. There are nice areas of good forest with swamps between them. We had a map of the Chugiak trails that we used for a long time, we tried to run courses outside of that but there were lots of swamps. Suggestion is that we get a map made. Mirror Lake was also suggested. If the good stuff is on the military land, no point in going further until we get a mapper and permission for the military land. Chris Thompson has always said it would be nice to get a map north of town that's not on military land. The point was made that we could keep a mapper busy for a whole summer just fixing the maps we have.

Equipment status:

There is no status, as Paul has not heard back from the Follett's.

Paul will make a proposal to get barricades made with arrows pointing out directions to meets. Paul will inventory controls, and make up two complete sets. Dan suggested ranking the controls as to their appearance. If we buy new controls we will get ones with the blue stripe for colorblind people.

BP Donation:

Dan shared news of a \$ 250.00 donation from someone at BP, Brian Kylee Sanford. Andrew was going to do a thank you letter to BP and Mr. Sanford.

PFD Donation List:

Getting the club on the PFD donation list. Ian thought you had to have a budget of over \$100,000 a year to be eligible to be on the list, but thought that not all companies already on the list are worth that. Karen will ask John Wolf how hard it is to get on that list.

Next meeting. Thursday February 19 at Ellyn's House. 7620 Wildwood Circle. Located East of Hillside Drive between O'Malley and Abbott Rd. Take Beacon Hill off of Hillside to Wildwood Cir.
Meet Director Training will be discussed.
Adjourn at 9:00 pm.

Notes by Ellyn Brown. Amended in 2-19-09 Board meeting.