**Board members**

Present: Jen Chapman, Barb Guillon, Anne Harfenist, Ali Howard, Susan Kinkela, Steve Osborn, Joanne Reid, Sarah Sacharoff

Unable to attend: Sarah Newton, Stephen Wickham

Meeting started at 19:04

**1) Minutes of Last Meeting**

***Motion:* Ali moved to accept Jan 15 draft board meeting minutes; Susan seconded. Approved.**

**2) Directors Reports**

**Barb**: Treasurer (financial reports circulated by Steve O Feb 9)

**Steve O:** Nordic Centre (emailed Feb 11)

Lodge

Lodge smell is gone!  Apex cleaned out the heating ducts. A few other suspect articles in the crawl space have been removed. We have been adding SeptoBac to the septic tank to reduce the smell coming out of the roof vent.

We now have a new fridge as well as the new deep freeze.

Megan Peloso did an awesome job on our grant application to NDIT for a new heating system. If successful, we will get $35k towards a deluxe $50k heating system.  Keep fingers crossed.

With the mild weather, the electric baseboards seem to be keeping the lodge comfortable.

Trails

Jan and the grooming team continue to make the most of our limited snow. Lots of happy feedback.

Jan, Anne and I are scheduled to meet Feb 23 with RSTBC about renewing our Partnership Agreement and going over our operating plan, trail authorizations, etc.

Trail lights: Despite some lights being repaired last summer, there are now 9 burnt out lights. I expect more will burn out soon given their age.  The recently installed LED trail lights in the stadium and 1 on Broadway are better than expected so I wondered about starting a project to convert to all LEDs.  We could have a fundraiser using Nordiq Canada's tax receipt donation system and offer new names on poles. But when I revisited the numbers, it seems to be too big a project and not enough payback.  In 2017, we obtained a quote that works out to about $60,000 to convert 100 lights to LEDs.  The electricity cost for our current sodium vapour lights is about $1000 a year. After converting to LEDs, we would save only $470 a year. Unless there is enthusiasm from others on the board, we will plan on only replacing the burnt out lights with new sodium vapour light bulbs. The bulbs are cheap and it might cost $1000 to rent a lift to install 10 a year.

***Suggestion from Board during discussion of Nordic Centre report: Put replacement of light bulbs on list for future grant opportunity.***

Grooming Machines

Our two new snowmobiles (2023 Skandic and 2023 Taiga) are operating well after some early season issues. Our 2015 Skandic is no longer running. Our two working machines are better than normal recreational snowmobiles but still not designed to do the work we ask of them. Even with extra care, they will wear out and become unreliable in a few years. We should have a third small machine to spread the workload and ensure there are always at least two snowmobiles working. If necessary, we can try to operate next winter with just the two machines.

Due to the late and low snow, we have been using the PB less than most years, so fuel and wages are lower. But repair costs continue to add up. No lost grooming time but hydraulic leaks keep happening. We are repairing them as we find them rather than wait for a breakdown. Sometimes the repairs take a lot of labour. The latest is a worn a valve box which distributes hydraulic oil to the many hoses. A good used box has been ordered for $4000. It could take up to $2000 labour to replace. I expect repairs and parts for all machines to be over $40,000 this year. A little higher than last year when we thought we had caught up on major repairs.

Luckily, we will be getting the Prinoth Bison soon and the DDF grant means we are not forced to sell the PB to pay for the Bison. Originally, I wanted to delay any decision on the PB's future until the Prinoth Bison is here and operating.  However, I am realizing that we do need start planning for if and how the PB fits into our future fleet.

The Bison will hopefully arrive in late March but won't get many hours on it until next winter. So we need to keep the PB for the rest of this year and at least part of next year until we are confident that the Bison doesn't have any break-in issues.

So after that, our options are:

1. Keep the PB as a backup but still use it part-time (it will degrade if not run occasionally)
2. Sell the PB ($60k to $100k) and buy a smaller but newer machine ($150k+) that can be a better backup than the snowmobiles.
3. Sell the PB and only rely on snowmobile groomers as backup for the Bison.

There are a lot of pros and cons with each option. Option 1 will give us best reliability for full function but at a significant cost for possibly a small gain in reliability.  Option 3 - would have the least ongoing cost, provide money for snowmobiles and other equipment, and still result in better reliability than previous years. (the new Bison will be much more reliable than the old PB).

Currently, Jan, Kevin and I are looking into possibilities for Option 2. The ideal machine probably doesn't exist but we are looking for features that would allow it to be a backup for the Bison as well as a be a more capable early-season groomer (i.e. address the need for a third snowmobile) and maybe even do some summer work.  Alternatively, the solution might involve a couple complementary machines. Our plan is to have our machine analysis complete by June to allow the possibility of applying for a Gaming Capital grant in July.

**Sarah N.:** Communications (emailed Jan 9)

**Snow Seekers Smithers Tourism Video**

-Thursday, January 18th- gave a complimentary lesson to Dawson and Kodi, and showed them around the lodge, stadium, and nearby trails, they are the two people ‘starring’ in the video.

-met with the again on Saturday, January 20th.  I thought they would be doing their own thing, but the videographer wanted it to look like it was a lesson, to showcase that we offer such services.

 The BVCCSC component  was about 7-10 seconds, no speaking, just drone coverage and a few shots of them skiing.

**Dan Mesec, Article**

-Phone interview with Dan, who has been hired by Snow Seekers, to write an article to compliment the video, which will include information about BVCCSC. I was sure to mention and thank the provincial government for the groomer and upgrade funding.

**Dog Loop interactions**

I made a short story about how to make it from the car to the other side of the tunnel with your dog on leash. This experiment in communication methods was a failure, I will stick to memes it seems.  Very few views.

 I made a few more social media reminders about BC Family day.

 About to send out another shout out for newsletter items.

**Position open:** Grants & Sponsorships

**Ali:** Events (emailed Feb 12)

**Womxn's Clinic Sunday January 21**

-- fully subscribed with 75 participants

-- 15 coaches, including one of the development athletes, Ava Wimbush

-- coaches appreciated honorariums

-- excellent work done by the organizers, Julie Sheppard & Kate Wills, from early advertising, opening registration early enough for holiday gift giving, and a more rigorous intake form to organize the groups. Excellent feedback from participants and nothing negative from the coaches

-- one of the participants, Caitie, brought her mini donkey, Mikey (photo attached) and raised over $90 in 40 minutes for the program. It will provide some start up funds for the Solstice 2024 extravaganza

**Tour de Treat January 28**

-- 149 tickets were sold, which was excellent (75% sold) given the tricky conditions owing to the thaw/freeze rendering much of the route very tricky for novice skiers

-- call for volunteers at Womxn's Clinic was successful in bringing up volunteer numbers

-- fewer young families than anticipated, but many many groups of young adults (note: how do we channel their enthusiasm & energy into volunteer participation, especially the young men -- women are much more likely to pitch in than men at the moment).

-- terrific organization & attention to detail by Sue Harrison & Kate Kantakis

**Coming up**

**McBike Welcome Day**

-- urgent need for volunteers. Jill & Peter are incredibly generous to do this for the club and it is imperative that we don't let them down!

-- Susan & Jan have been helpful in arranging for more passes to be available.

**Wetzin'kwa Loppet**

-- information is finally on the website and registration will be opening soon

**Other**

-- working on assembling a small group to organize Solstice 2024. So far 4 people have contacted me, and I am working on persuading a few more key people

-- liaising with Sarah S about a draft agreement between NSDP's catering arm & the Race Committee for future races

**Sarah S.:** NSDP (emailed Feb 12)

**Masters Drop In**

Week 1 - Jan 17, 16 participants

Week 2 - Jan 24, 25 participants

Week 3 - Jan 31, 9 participants

Yes, we have enough coaches.  We aim for 4 coaches per session.  Drop-In is fine.

**Master’s Performance**

-feedback I’ve heard is that it is going well.

-andrea managed to find coverage for all sessions when she is traveling for races, NSDP will offer these fill in coaches honorariums.  Pete Krause in am, Kaia Andal in evenings

**Racing**

* PG BC Cup 1, 31 BV Nordic racers plus many parents. Lots of learning for the athletes, lots of fun team events, well attended by other clubs.  PG did a good job with challenging conditions. Some excitement with a last minute wax change but wax team had ample helpers. A number of podium finishes.
* BL Northern Cup, cancelled due to not enough snow
* Whistler BC Cup 2, 17 BV Nordic racers. Challenging conditions for waxing, teamed up with Revelstoke and generally had good wax feedback. U16+ skiing Olympic caliber 10k classic, ~400m elevation. Kids crushed it. Athletes are doing a good job at learning independence, warming themselves up, getting to start line on their own, etc. mass start fields of 60+. Supported 2 Vanderhoof athletes.
* Looking fwd, vanderhoof is optimistic that tech cup will happen,  quesnel winter games Nordic is going ahead (skiing in Wells), at least 4 athletes planning to attend Track Attack champs in Kelowna, salmon Arm BC Champs beginning of March, Andrea and at least two athletes going to nationals.

**Ski S’kool grant**

-awarded $8k from Paul Backhouse Memorial award through BVCF for 2024-25 season. Denise, Jen and Sarah S to attend ceremony Tuesday Feb 13. Mila Stasiuk (BV Nordic athlete) donated some hand made thank you cards

* Denise organizing the purchase of new ski S’kool skis for the Rossignol deal for club membership contest

**Finances**

* ADP is planning to purchase a small (6x8 approximately) utility trailer for the wax team to bring to races. I imagine it would be stored in the BVNordic lot when not in use but need to discuss this with Jan/Steve O. This purchase will be led by Sandy Maclean and Chris Werrell.
* ADP is planning to purchase two additional pairs of test skis
* Purchase 4 new folding tables to be used by ADP in a variety of ways (races, food tables). Plan to eventually store them in the boiler room in the lodge

**Agreement between Events, Race Committee and NSDP regarding responsibilities at races**

* have a draft agreement, collecting feedback

**Courses**

* Sarah, Jen C and Patrick attended a conflict resolution course with NowWhat!  Great conversation and pause for learning.

**Other**

* Whistler club president approached me at Whistler race for advice on their programs. They are considering teaming up with spud valley to form a shared ADP program, will run their own SDP. They are struggling with volunteer appreciation, currently they pay all of their coaches, not many volunteers. Struggle with numbers
* spoke with Steve O and Jan about how we choose which sponsors to recognize on signs. BVCF not recognized.
* Toby Creek reached out to ask about how we were handing CCBC Safe Sport Guidelines:

My understanding of how we are handling this is:

1. added this to our coach code of conduct:

Be aware of and adhere to CCBC SafeSport Guidelines and be vigilant in reporting any signs of abuse.

2. required all of our coaches to do the safe sport and rule of twos training

3. required our athletes to do the safe sport and rule of twos training.

**Susan:**  Membership (emailed Feb 13)

1. Total Members: 1123

Adults: 920

Child: 118

Youth: 70

No Pass: 15

1. Deposits:

January 18 290.00

Adult 19

Reciprocal 2 (Omenica)

Gift Card 1

January 24 1123.00

Adult 73

Youth 3

Child 1

Reciprocal 1 (HBMR)

Gift Card 1

January 31 801.00

Adult 54

Youth 1

Child 6

Gift Card 5

February 7 872.00

Adult 56

Youth 1

Gift Card 3

**Anne:** Secretary (emailed Feb 10)

Sent out a reminder about dog trail etiquette to members who ski with dogs.  Thanks to Ben for helping me navigate the process.

**3) Action Items from Previous Meeting**

* ***those directors who have not already done so*** *to prepare job descriptions – some still outstanding*
* ***Jen*** to look into how other clubs compensate volunteers - ongoing
* *Sarah to discuss with focusing on the lower parking lot with ticket checkers or their organisers -- ??*
* *Sarah to add Onion Lake to website list of clubs with whom we have reciprocal agreement - done*
* *Tabled: Steve O to ask insurer about bundling snowmobile coverage and forest fire coverage*
* *Tabled: recalculate what our targets for reserves are*
* *Tabled:* Steve O to work with Steve W and Brandin to find cost cutting opportunities

**4) New/Continuing Business**

1. Website

* Concern expressed about old events taken down off website without director’s knowledge or permission
* Question of who has access (do we need to change passwords?) and who has control
* Is there backup?
* No one is in charge of website
* Ideally would fall under Communications, but was not part of job description – bring up with Sarah N at next board meeting to see if interested

***Action Item: Steve O. to check with Ben about backup and who has access***

1. First Aid buckets

* Must be able to open
* Since incident a year or more ago, buckets have been covered with plastic bag held on by bungee
* Suggestion that could use example of Revelstoke: first aid supplies in backpacks in cabinets so can grab and ski to injured person. Steve O has photos

***Action Item: solicit volunteers to work on in newsletter – maybe high school project***

1. Dog Trails – uni- or bi-directional

* Comment received requesting that Wild Dog and Pooch Paradise be made one way
* Many on board disagreed with idea; thus will leave bi-directional for skiers without dogs

***Action Item: Jen to write response to person who sent comment explaining club position***

***Action Item: review etiquette in newsletter***

d) Board feedback to Roger re trail homologation

* Individual directors to discuss ideas with Roger rather than single board comment
* Discussed presenting work in stages so not trying to do everything all at once; pick 2-3 goals; skip skiathlon

e) Clarification of lodge usage

* Still following board-approved policy
* Fiddlers were over the line – unacceptable

f) Piston Bully options

* 3 options presented by Steve O: keeping PB; selling PB & buying new snowmobile; selling PB and buying full function backup groomer
* Possibly buy industrial, more durable snowmobile
* Board not support keeping PB; board leaning toward buying 3rd snowmobile rather than full function backup groomer but no vote taken

Meeting adjourned 21:00

Next meeting: March 18