**SNSA Board Retreat**

**June 10, 2019, 6:30 PM**

**Spokane, WA**

**Present:** Libby Schoedel, Ben Mandel, Dave Yadon, Susan Engel, Andy Anderson, Kate Burns, Matt Halloran, Colin Quinn-Hurst, Mike Powers, Peter Groza, Frank Benish.

Action items highlighted yellow. Motions made and voted on are green.

Meeting started at 6:37pm

**Fat Biking**

Introductions – Evergreen East, Frank Benish – Prefers text when getting in contact

* SAFA – Spokane Area Fat Bike Association - forming with local bike shop owner – all about alliance, education, and cooperation with other user groups - Mt. Bike, Rd. Bike, Cyclocross
* Clarification: at this time, there isn’t anything appropriate for fat biking at Mt. Spokane except Linder Ridge. Emphasis on “at this time.”
* Would like to come up with a planned approach for integrating fat biking that is responsible and holds high potential for success
* Mixing with snowmobile trails can be an issue
* Grade at Nordic area suits beginning fat bikers
	+ Has hesitation on Linder due to deck width, considers it too narrow
	+ If there is a way to go through and cross trails responsibly, it could be sustainable
	+ Can take any brush down on IEP land, just no trees
	+ Is it possible to make trails in winter without cutting brush etc.?
		- State Parks wasn’t aware of this possibility
	+ Working on a winter use pass that includes fat biking
	+ Regarding timing, not necessarily suggesting this winter for introducing fatbikes
	+ Fat bike community would like something to count on, and Mt. Spokane would be the most reliable
	+ Worst impact on trails is from mountain bike riders with regular tires and some trail runners
	+ Regarding anticipated numbers, winters at Riverside have been busy
	+ Every weekend about 8 or 9 fat bikers go up to Mt. Spokane, not at Nordic, using summit rd. and going up to CCC on 130 or on the road, then dropping down 131
	+ Snowshoers help with packing trails, and there is good collaboration and interaction between snowshoers and fatbikers
	+ There could be synergistic benefits of many user groups investing in improving trailhead facilities
	+ One approach could be wide shared trails out to the fat bike trails, then narrow and steep trails for fatbike-specific trails
	+ State wants something to benefit the beginners in particular

The State Park at Pearrygin Lake gets paid to groom

* Paid out of WRAC funds
* Great riding for beginning fat bikers

White Pass example from recent RAC

* Skate in middle
* Classic tracks on either side
* 3-foot space for bikes on the outside

**Financials / Budget**

How does the SafeSport requirement for two coaches affect financials?

* This past year SNSA paid head coach’s expenses, and broke even
* In future, race team member could divide up all the head coach’s expenses and pay for them
* Need people riding in the van to help pay to operate the van
* As an example, MBSEF kids who rode in the van would pay extra ~$300 per year, plus $50 per trip
* Ski school committee will need to address this – Colin add to Ski School agenda

Questions on Nordic Kids

* Do we want to hats and coats for Nordic Kids coaches?
* Can work with coaches and Nordic Kids coordinators to say, this is the budget, and if you want hats or coats, it needs to come out of this
* Planning to offer PSIA-certification to limited coaches, doing train the trainer
* Free lesson to Nordic Kids coaches by PSIA-certified coaches
* Certified coaches first cover the free lessons, then train the other Nordic Kids coaches
* Hats would make coaches recognizable on the trails, could pay for them with savings from not needing to buy flags this year
* Costs about $8/short for JNQ shirts
* Action Item: Matt to H. figure out costs of hat order and add it to NK Budget under misc. expenses for $2,500

Question on financial report format

* How do we keep account with where, specifically, donations go, and can we show that specifically in the budget?
* It would help to demonstrate, and track, how specific donations go toward funding specific items, and whether more/less/same is needed in the future
* Answer: can go back and run reports such as profit/loss by class, and could possibly assign codes in the future. Currently tracking with notes in each transaction, and becoming more and more succinct.
* Standard procedure regarding where donations end up is to inform people that “in the event we raise more than is needed for this specific item, your funds will go back to these other items”
	+ When Chair thank-you letters, they identify where money went
* Going back to the sponsorship program discussion from previous meetings, this could be addressed in the tiers of sponsorship, saying “Platinum-level gets you this, and you can expect this recognition”

Regarding future budgeting, Brad T. will be starting his own non-profit

* + Backing away from SNSA role starting in fiscal year 2020 to 2021
	+ Will contract on an as-needed basis
* Andy makes motion to approve budget
* Mike P. seconded, all approved

**Urban Experience Committee – Susan**

* Provided presentation to City Council on all that SNSA does
* Following meeting, someone from downhill area approached, proposed the idea of the downhill area doing the Nordic grooming.

**Fundraising Committee**

* Moving forward, would like to start in February to fundraise for the following year
* Action item for Fundraising Committee – Produce a Race Team/JNQ one-pager for distribution – Brad T. says he’s happy to work with folks when he is approached to produce these types of materials
* Regarding a sales approach, it is important to clearly define what the business is looking for
	+ Someone might say they want their name in three facebook posts
	+ Proposed that we need a menu of sponsorship options, so we can align the different sponsors with the appropriate menu item
	+ Another concept for fundraising, you give this much money, you get this type of sticker for your ski box/car to recognize your donation, different colors recognizing donation level
	+ Recommended to avoid talking about administrative costs when looking for sponsors, as you don’t want membership covering sponsor costs.

**Ski School Subcommittee**

Action Item: Colin to send out email requesting additional names

* First meeting targeting July

**Grooming Committee**

* Bob Hyslop has all the tools, and they are all ready to again
* Sam Schleider has draft dates for trail clearing
* Will be looking for leaders for trail clearing days
	+ Will put out announcement this summer looking for leaders to run the crews

**To Do Items**

* Action Item – T-Team: Hire a T-team coach
* Action Item- Race Team: Update Race team coach contract with George
* Action Item – Ski School Subcommittee: Safesport project needs to happen soon
* Action Item: Fill Treasurer in Training for the future.
* Action Item: Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation need to be updated
* Action Item: Send ideas for different venues and locations for meetings
* Kate will be willing to step down as board member if there’s a new and eager person interested in joining as a board member, but she can still attend
* New people can participate on sub-committees --- good way to get people who are not on the board, involved
* Formal recognition and thanks to Kate for all her hard work to lead the board and stay up on all the issues