SNSA Board of Directors Meeting – Monday March 9, 2020

Present: Andy Anderson, Susan Engel, Matt Halloran, Kate Burns, Dave Yadon, Ben Mandel, Petr Groza, Liz Addis, Libby Schoedel, Colin Quinn-Hurst

Guests: Diana Dupuis, Lara Gricar from Washington State Parks

Green = Motions

Yellow = Action Items

1. Approve last meetings minutes
   1. Minutes approved – Motion, seconded, approved unanimously
2. Partnership Updates – Andy Anderson
   1. State Parks Meeting Feb 18
   2. Diana and Laura present from State Parks
   3. Discussion: Process for reporting grooming issues and groomer issues. Action Item: Parks will send information to [info@spokanenordic.org](mailto:info@spokanenordic.org) or generic google email that will reach all board members. Action Item: Matt to provide SNSA google email to State Parks
   4. Grooming Funding: Passes sold the previous year pay for grooming in the current year. In May, the State Parks Commission is considering a daily Sno-Park fee increase from $20 to $25, and a season increase from $40 to $60. Support from SNSA for this fee increase would be helpful. This needs to be passed in May in order to get new stickers to State Parks by October/November. Action Item: SNSA board to support Parks request for fee increases
   5. Increasing Grooming Funding: To increase funding going toward local grooming, in July the Park has to request money from a statewide pot of money made up of Sno-Park permit fees from the previous winter. When this type of grant is awarded three years in a row, it gets added to the basic budget going forward.
   6. Backup Grooming Operator: State Parks is looking into the possibility of a second groomer by creating a full-time, year-round permanent position that would do other work in the off-season. Working the holidays is a big issue in recruiting a groomer. Training maintenance staff as backup groomers is a promising option.
   7. SNSA Contribution to Grooming Funds: The groomer operator is paid out of winter recreation money, including salary, benefits, fuel, maintenance equipment and repairs. It is possible to supplement this fund with donations, by sending a letter from the organization with a check identified for this specific purpose, known as a restricted donation.
   8. Grooming Reports: still finding best format for groomer to report grooming conditions, possibly a more automated way to upload the report.
   9. When there are complaints about grooming, it is important for SNSA to provide a buffer by collecting, filtering and summarizing information from the ski community before it is presented to State Parks staff, in order to prioritize needs. Complaints should go first to the Grooming Advisory Committee, from there to the Board, and from there to State Parks. Action item: schedule a monthly or every-other-month meeting throughout the winter season to coordinate between SNSA and State Parks. Action Item: Put agreed-upon Grooming Policy, established by Grooming Committee on SNSA website along with names of Grooming Committee member names.
   10. Grooming Equipment: State Parks aiming to buy a duplicate groomer, called a Husky, in order to have duplicate parts and availability of local expert mechanic, Conan in Coeur d’Alene.
   11. Selkirk Lodge: Current thinking is to incrementally improve upon the existing lodge by (viewing the lodge from the front in the parking lot) pushing the front out to the snow bank, and the back out to the snowmobile shelter. Options are limited to the drain field to the right of the lodge and accessory bathroom to the left/rear of the lodge. This process goes through design, State Parks Planner and then capital program to stamp plans, then getting archeology sign-off and other reviews and permits. Eventually, when a capital funding request is successful, some of the project would be bid out, Parks staff would do some of the work, and volunteers could strategically carry out pieces of the work. If SNSA has money to contribute, that would bump the project up in the queue to get State Parks funding.
3. Review SNSA skier survey
   1. Top priority: Unanimous in responses that membership would support a price increase toward grooming. Among the relative priorities, grooming rose to the top, and the amount that people would be willing to pay to support grooming varied with age.
4. Grooming/Trail clearing – Dave
   1. Link to <https://parks.state.wa.us/615/Inland-Northeast-Southeast> or <https://parks.state.wa.us/DocumentCenter/View/15083/Mount-Spokane-Nordic-trail-grooming-report>
   2. Review plan for trail clearing.
      1. State Parks Brush hog – State Parks just bought a brush hog, and they are on the list to use it on Mt. Spokane.
      2. Trail leader training – SNSA needs more trained trail leaders, as the existing leaders are burning out, so a Trail Leader Training is needed to train new leaders. State Parks can assist through their volunteer coordinator and volunteer base.
         1. Action Item: Schedule spring / summer trail leader training
      3. Tool storage/maintenance – Need to solve storage issues, as storage in private sheds among membership isn’t a long-term solution.
         1. Action Item: Need 2 new pole saws
         2. Action Item: Find storage location that all trail leaders could easily access
      4. Marketing – on home page
      5. Signup on website – Action Item: Add trail leader training to website and market on home page and in emails/newsletters.
5. Review Financials – Libby Schoedel
   1. Overall, the organization is down about $11,000 this year from last year, primarily due to increased PSIA expenses and coaching costs this year.
   2. Review Brads ideas for ATV capital campaign update
      1. Look into upcoming Fall 2020 call for application for Resource Conservation Office grants, which previously paid for a new snow machine about 10 years ago. Action Item: Update and re-submit Lisa Sunderman’s previous application to the program from 2 years ago.
   3. Van door repair costs have been identified
   4. Action Item: Identify and contact companies that offer some of the services that membership coordinator previously managed.
   5. Brad would like to continue running the Loppet as a contractor
      1. This would shift State Parks event fees from SNSA to the contractor
6. Race / Transition / Cross team – Ben Mandel
   1. Next year is George’s last year as the Race Team coach
   2. Corinne is applying for out-of-state graduate school programs
   3. It is recommended that the future coach start involvement or assisting as a coach next year
   4. T-Team is having a strong year with a lot of participation. The challenge is still meeting the needs of a range of abilities and goals that vary widely in the group.
   5. Action Item: Start defining role, compensation and potential candidates for head Race Team coach for 2022 season.
7. Nordic Kids/Rangers – Matt Halloran
   1. Brad and Rob are not planning to do Nordic Kids next year. Action Item: Recruit new Nordic Kids leaders for next year.
   2. Rangers had a campout, built a fire and had a great time and a good end to the year.
8. Adaptive / Skijor – Susan Engel
   1. Held a successful event the previous Saturday with a large group and participation.
9. Master Ski Team and Adult Programs – Petr Groza/ Brad
   1. Loppet was successful with a great turnout, good food and strong volunteer participation. All volunteer spots were filled for the first time, and that was crucial to holding a successful event.
10. Executive session

Next board meeting April 13