

MINUTES  
ABSF Board of Directors Meeting  
April 24, 2017  
3:00 PM ABSF Office  
Hayward, WI

Board Members present: Paul Eckerline , Joe Timmerman, Tom Duffy, Brett Rondeau, John Kotar, Jeff Tumbleson, Sue Scheer.

Digitally Present: Mike Mandli , Charlie Dee. Yuriy Gusev, John Garrett

Board Members Absent: Dennis Kruse, Jan Guenther

Staff Present: Ben Popp

Call to order, 3:00 p.m.

Approval of Agenda: Duffy moved, Rondeau second. **Approved.**

Approval of minutes from March 27, 2017 Board Meeting: Duffy moved, Rondeau second. **Approved.**

President's Comments, Paul Eckerline

- Nice thank-you note received from Lenox, MA youth ski club that received a grant from us last year. They are 50 kids strong.
- The May 1 Trail Ctte. meeting is very important for our future. Suggest checking out SMI Snowmaking website for useful information on snowmaking.
- The staff retreat will be on May 15 along with Endowment Board. We've been invited to join both groups for dinner at the Old Chicago club the evening of the 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Our Board Retreat will be at 8:00 AM, Tuesday, May 16 at our Hayward Office.
- Please sign and turn in the Confidentiality Agreement forms sent out for a sensitive discussion coming up later.
- Our annual review of the Executive Director is coming up. The process used last year has been included in your packet. Unless someone has an alternative suggestion, we'll use that same process this year. You'll soon receive the evaluation documents.

Executive Director's Comments, Ben Popp

- Nancy's recap of our earned media this year, prepared for our meeting with Slumberland, is excellent.
- Several board members and staff joined me at the Jesse Diggins return party in Twin Cities. Fantastic event.

- I discussed with Jesse the plans for the US hosting a World Cup race in 2019 or 2020. Quebec is hosting one race and the WC wants a US event following that. Boston is vying for it, but Jesse and some of the other athletes are pushing for the Twin Cities as the venue. John Munger and Yuriy Gusev have already met about this and are looking for ways to fund it. I made clear to her we'd help in any way we can other than financial.
- The NFL has approached us about renting the Birkie Bridge for Super Bowl in Twin Cities next year. They met with Trussworks and discovered it would take 21 semis to move it there. Branding the "Birkie International Bridge" would give us great exposure.
- On Labor Day we'll lose our Director of Race Operations, Al Serrano as living in two different parts of the country is not working out for him. He's moving back to NY. Kristy Maki will be our new Events Director while Jim Sokup is now coming on full time in operations. As part of the staff retreat we will be reorganizing / creating updated job descriptions as some responsibilities are being shifted around. We'll try to make the transition as easy as possible by starting these new arrangements before Al leaves.
- We're reorganizing some of our financials, including the P&L report and our accounts.
- Passed out comparison of the new and old statement of accounts for 17 and 18.
- We are working with the DOT on funding possibilities for the underpass at 77.

For WC, I told him we could help as much as possible, but we DONT have money at this time for the event - can try and help in other areas - but the bid is for 2020, so this is very preliminary with very few details.

#### Development Update, Ben Popp

- Interviewing three candidates for our open position of Development Director. Charlie and I were both very impressed with one candidate. It's likely that we'll make an offer this week.
- Sawyer County will submit on our behalf this week a \$225,000 DNR grant for the Community Outdoor Center at OO.
- Confidential discussion of potential issue.

#### Committee Reports

##### Finance: Sue Scheer subbing

- Spoke about latest financials.
- The *Birch Scroll* has an excellent explanation on our fixed costs to explain to skiers why we can't refund entry fees when the race is cancelled.
- Ben mentioned that we're trying to move to a six-month operating reserve.

Trail: Mike Mandli

- Will Meet on May 1 to discuss snowmaking options in depth.

Documentation: Charlie Dee

1. Bylaw Addition:

Sub-paragraphs c & d added to Article II, Section 3. Moved Dee, Second Kotar.

Dee accepted friendly amendment from Scheer to eliminate phone numbers from (d).

Amendment moved by Scheer, Second Rondeau to eliminate email addresses from (d). **Approved.**

“II (3) (d) The current list of all ABSF members with addresses, shall be provided to any member in good standing who has agreed in writing not to use the list for any commercial purpose, not to use the list to solicit money or property for any purpose other than election to the ABSF Board of Directors, not to sell the list or to share the list with any other person, organization or business.

(e) A copy of the membership list in either paper or electronic form will be available for inspection by any member in good standing at the annual meeting.”

**Approved unanimously**

2. Procedures Manual Addition

ABSF Board Election Vote Total Report and Storage

Reporting Election Results

Winners of ABSF Board of Directors election held at the Annual Meeting will be announced within 48 hours on the ABSF Website.

Vote Total Storage and Availability

Vote totals for all candidates for the ABSF Board of Directors will be stored in the ABSF office in both electronic and paper form.

These vote totals will be made available in a timely manner to any ABSF member who requests them.

Moved Dee, Second Kotar. **Approved unanimously**

3. Race Fees file: Ben will put together and Colleen will make available to any member who requests changes in race fees over recent years.

Skier Development: Ben Popp subbing

- We will soon receive summaries from the Birkie Ambassadors and plan steps for soliciting grant request.

Competition: Sue Scheer subbing

- Committee met and discussed benefits and drawbacks of participating the Worldloppet Cup vs. Ski Classics. Latter would require significant costs with unknown benefits. In years when we are not a part of FIS World Cup, we need to recruit international skiers.
- Being part of FIS Worldloppet Cup is what the committee supports. Canada wants to do a back-to-back with us in FIS WLC.

Adjournment: Duffy moved, Acclimation.