

MINUTES  
ABSF Board of Directors Meeting  
*December 5, 2016*  
5:00 PM ABSF Office  
Hayward, WI

Board Members present: Paul Eckerline, Dennis Kruse, Joe Timmerman, Tom Duffy, Brett Rondeau, John Kotar, John Garrett, Jeff Tumbleson, Yuriy Gusev, Jan Guenther.  
Digitally Present: Mike Mandli, Charlie Dee  
Board Members Absent: Sue Scheer,  
Staff Present: Ben Popp  
Call to order, 3:12 p.m.

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

Approval of minutes from October 17, 2016 Board Meeting: Kruse moved, Tumbleson second.  
**Approved.**

President's Comments, Paul Eckerline

ABSF Holiday Party today.

Executive Director's Comments, Ben Popp

- A tentative agreement has been reached with Sawyer County on Birkie Trail land owned by Sawyer County and maintained by ABSF. This follows process of discussions between both sides, legal consul and must be approved by both the Sawyer County and ABSF Boards to be final. Key issues are control over buildings on land, how trail pass dollars are used, and right of first refusal for ABSF if Sawyer Country ever chooses to sell the land. Since the county doesn't grant easements, this agreement, if approved, would provide security for Birkie control of our most valuable asset. Eckerline moved Unanimous Consent to have email vote by board for final approval of agreement once it has been passed by Sawyer County.  
**Approved Unanimously.**
- Also, we're discussing with Sawyer County a change in the permitting process for use of Birkie Trail that would require a deposit and would make those taking out permits for holding events on the trail responsible for damage during their events.
- The Birkie Trail was named the Best Cross Country Ski Resort in the *USA Today*

#### Readers Choice 2016 Awards

- Twin Cities TV station WCCO is committed to 4 days of broadcasting from the Birkie this year.
- The Birkie has been named the winner of the “2016 Champions of Economic Impact in Sports Tourism” by Sports Destination Management for our impact on the area economy. This is the leading publication with the largest circulation of sports event planners and tournament directors in the sports tourism market.
- State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) survey showed that Nordic skiing is the Most Egalitarian Outdoor Activity in Wisconsin, meaning that our sport involves more people through all age, income and geographic demographic metrics. Almost 10% of Wisconsin’s residents engage in cross-country skiing.
- State of Wisconsin has officially declared Birkie Week and we’re applying to get the same recognition nationally.
- Phase II Capital Campaign Update; \$515,000 raised so far. There remain \$400,000 in naming rights opportunities.
- Cyber Monday offer resulted in over 400 registrations for the Birkie Tour, putting us over 500 total. Great success.
- Jesse Diggins, who just won a World Cup Race, attended the Twin Cities fundraiser and will do another video for us as Birkie Ambassador and World Cup champ.

#### Committee Reports

Finance: Joe Timmerman

- Moving \$100K from Johnson Bank B Checking to Peoples Bank Money Market to bring Peoples Money Market account up to \$250,000, the limit for FDIC insurance.
- The \$53,000 negative balance for Phase I will zero out financially at the end of the year when we move that amount to expenses.
- We will close the Tony Wise Endowment Fund by the end of the year.
- We have moved \$1920.38 to the Endowment For The American Birkebeiner to cover start-up costs.
- 2016 Lumberjack Run netted \$600, and Ben has contacted the Hayward Schools to inquire about the May, 2017 scholarship process so we can donate the proceeds.
- We’ve received the audit report from Anderson, Hager, and Moe. All Board Members are encouraged to review and especially to read the notes at the end. The bottom line is that they call for no changes in our accounting methods.

Trail: Mike Mandli No report.

Documentation: Charlie Dee

Dee moved, Kruse second, first of three additions to the Procedures Manual:

“A. The ABSF Executive Director is encouraged by the ABSF Board to attend a Worldloppet Race each year as part of his or her professional development. Unless there are mitigating budgetary issues, the ABSF will support the ED’s expenses.”

**Approved**

Dee moved, Rondeau second:

“B. Since Worldloppet (WL) races offer two nights complimentary lodging for board members from other WL races as well as five complimentary entries, and because attending other Worldloppet races offers lessons and perspectives that are useful for ABSF board members, the latter are encouraged to visit at least one other WL race.

C. Prior to the September ABSF board meeting each year, the Worldloppet representative on the board will circulate a list of the year’s WL races and a sign-up sheet for ABSF board members to express preferences for the race or races they would like to attend.

D. If more than one board member wants to attend the same race, the following tie-breakers will be used, in sequence, to determine who will be the ABSF Representative to the race:

1. If a board member has never attended any WL race other than the Birkie, and the other(s) has attended at least one WL race in the past, the board member who has never attended will have preference.
2. If all applying have attended WL races in the past, but one has never attended as the ABSF representative while the other(s) have represented the Birkie in the past at a WL race, the one who has never before represented will have preference.
3. If all applying have attended WL races in the past as Birkie representatives, but one has never been a representative before at the particular race in question while the other(s) has been, the person never to have represented at the particular race will have preference.
4. If all the conditions above fail to distinguish between applicants, the board member with the most seniority on the board will have preference.
5. If #4 above fails to distinguish because the board members have the same seniority on the board, the WL representative will flip a coin to determine the representative.
6. If the WL representative is one of the applicants, any other board member who is not an applicant to attend that race that year may flip the coin to determine.

E. Once the preferences have been sorted out, the WL Representative on the Board will do the following:

1. Inform all board members via email who the representatives will be for that year.
2. Inform the Executive Director of same.

F. The Executive Director will inform each of the Worldloppet races in question who will be representing the ABSF at that race for that year."

**Approved**

Dee moved, Rondeau second:

"G. Board members who represent the ABSF and receive the complimentary lodging will also receive two of the five complimentary entries. The other three complimentary entries will be decided by the ABSF Worldloppet representative in consultation with the Executive Director based on the following priorities:

1. Other board members attending the race.
2. Employees of the ABSF attending the race.
3. ABSF VIPs such as race sponsors, volunteers or contributors to the ABSF.
4. If all five of the complimentary entries are not used by folks in these categories, complimentary entries can be extended to spouses or significant others of board members or employees.
5. The ABSF Executive Director will notify each Worldloppet Race who will be receiving the complementary entries for each year."

**Approved.**

Dee moved, Kotar second Bylaw amendment to bring Bylaws into consistency with Procedure Manual change previously made regarding nominations for election to ABSF Board of Directors:

Article III (2)(b) (page 5)

(b) All ~~non-incumbent nominations~~ candidates for election to the Board of Directors must be current members of the ABSF ~~presented~~ and must present in writing to the Secretary at least 45 days prior to the annual meeting of each year the form with their name, signature and email address. ~~Such nomination must be signed by the nominator and the nominee, both of whom must be members, and ten (10) other members.~~

**Approved unanimously.**

Skier Development: Jan Guenther

Jan and Charlie have suggested changes in grant proposal grading, and we will meet in future to integrate changes for next year.

Competition: Dennis Kruse

Worldloppet has discussed problems with a small group of competitors passing off chips and cheating with the result that people get credit for races they haven't done. Thus, the organization has asked all member races to adopt a simple statement establishing the option of disqualification after the race is completed.

Kruse moved, Mandli second:

"A competitor will automatically be disqualified if he/she participates in the competition under false pretenses such as starting under false name/with false timing chip or practice any unsportsmanlike behavior. The Race Director and/or Race Secretary have authority to disqualify, penalize or ban from participation if evidence of rule infraction is submitted after the race is completed and after the Jury has finished their work."

**Approved unanimously.**

New Business

None

Adjournment: Mandli moved, Dee second. **Approved** by acclimation at 4:30 pm.