

## **MINUTES**

ABSF Board of Directors Meeting

Monday September 19, 2022

3:00 PM

Birkie Office

**Board Members Present:** Paul Eckerline, Jeff Tumbleson, Tom Duffy, Kathie Pautsch, Mike Mandli, Sue Scheer, Madelaine Rekemeyer, Karen Manske

**Electronically present:** Yuri Gusev, Kris Bjerkness, Bill Brown, Andy Ubel

**Staff Present:** Ben Popp

**Absent:** Jan Guenther

**Approval of Agenda:** Scheer move. Duffy second. **Approved.**

**Approval of Minutes** from June 20, 2022 meeting: Duffy move. Scheer second. **Approved.**

**President's Comments:** Paul Eckerline

- Andy Ubel was introduced and welcomed as our newest board member. He had a career in engineering before switching career paths. He is currently a patent attorney for a startup company. He comes from a family of skiers and is passionate about the Birkie.
- Jeff Tumbleson has submitted his official resignation from the ABSF BOD. He has accepted a staff position for the ABSF as the Trails/Facilities Senior Manager. He thanked the group for the 6 years that he has served on the BOD. While he enjoyed being on the BOD, he is excited about this new opportunity with the ABSF.

- **Motion:** The vacant seat on the ABSF BOD will be offered to the candidate who received the next greatest number of votes at our recent election. Manske move. Mandli second. **Passes** unanimously. As president, Paul Eckerline will contact Chris Morley to invite him to fill the vacant seat.
- At our next BOD meeting in October, we will update all committees and committee members. This also needs to be updated on the ABSF website.
- An Employment Agreement between the ABSF and Ben Popp, Executive Director was reviewed. The agreement continues through June 30, 2027.  
**Motion:** ABSF BOD approves this new contract for Ben Popp as Executive Director of the ABSF. Mandli move. Pautsch second. Passes unanimously.

**Executive Director's Comments:** Ben Popp

- Ben welcomed Jeff Tumbleson to the ABSF staff and feels he is a great fit for this new position.
- A new Title Sponsor for the mountain bike trails at Mount Telemark will be announced soon.
- A thank you event for the donors to the Telemark Conservancy is being planned for mid-October.
- World Cup 2024 update: There is an upcoming meeting with FIS. The event budget is estimated at \$2.5M; working on a Title Sponsor. No decision yet.
- Upcoming Events:

Birkie Trail Run is this weekend. The internal staff guide brochure was shared with the BOD.

Ski de She has launched and the camp is already over half full in 3 days. We are excited that Kikkan Randall will be part of the new event.

Birkie Tour will look different this year with a night race; registration opens this next week.

Birkie One will help host a run at the newly opened LCO trail. LCO College is helping to support the Birkie One efforts. A professionally developed video will be launched in the near future that highlights the Birkie One mission.

- The 3.5 mile roller ski/paved trail at Mount Telemark Village will begin construction soon. The Observation Deck will also start construction soon and will be reusing much of the former Telemark products.
- Look for the new sign at the Birkie Start: Home of the American Birkebeiner.
- A rendering for the Telemark Base Camp was shared and we are working with LHB on this; funding is in progress.
- The NICA youth mountain bike race/event was a huge success at Telemark this past weekend with 3,800 people in attendance. They are interested in a long term agreement. This event will only get better with planned trail and venue improvements.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Finance:** Kris Bjerkness

- The Financial Scorecard from the ABSF staff was shared.

- Financial Recap:

Revenue for the past month is \$615.5K and \$2.153M YTD.

Expense for the past month is \$294K and \$625K YTD.

Income for the past month is \$321K and \$1.528M YTD (reminded that we have a lot of event expenses upcoming).

Donations and Grants are about \$100K behind budget.

More people have registered early for Birkie events this year compared to previous years.

Birkie Trail Run is currently at about 900 participants, which is down slightly due to no ultra-marathon event this year.

- A resolution is needed for signature authority for ABSF accounts. This will need to be added to the Financial Operating Procedures for banking purposes and entering into financial agreements.
- **Motion:** Move that signature authority for all ABSF related accounts shall include two officers from the board (President and Treasurer) and two staff members (Executive Director and Chief Financial Officer). Pautsch move. Manske second. **Passes** unanimously.
- Discussion: The Finance Committee will update the Procedures Manual including process and limits for signature authority for amounts outside of budget.

### **Telemark Capital Campaign:** Bill Brown

- The first meeting of this new committee is scheduled for next week. A brief overview of financials and anticipated budget was given with more details to come after the first meetings.

**Documentation Committee:** New chairperson to be determined at next meeting.

- No report.

**Competition Committee/World Cup Update:** Ben Popp

- Discussed earlier in ED report.

**Birkie One:** Jeff Tumbleson

- A new chairperson will be determined at next meeting as Jeff is no longer on the BOD. As a staff member, he would like to remain very involved in this committee.
- The board is reminded of the upcoming race at the new LCO trail on October 8 and board members are encouraged to attend/volunteer.
- Birkie One is working with LCO College on this initiative. Considering a Land Acknowledgement Ceremony to recognize that the land that we use was originally Native land and has long held significance to Indigenous people.

**New Business:**

- Brief discussion regarding creating a woman's only lane in the Birkie start waves.
- Brief discussion on ways to attract more young adults to the Birkie lifestyle; consideration of a Skier/Sport Development Committee. This could focus on youth activities as well.
- Tom Duffy and Paul Eckerline will be representing ABSF as part of upcoming Cranberry Fest on October 1. Other board members are welcome to join them.

- Next board meeting is Monday October 24, 2022 3PM, location to be determined. Note that this is one week later than usual.

**Motion** to adjourn: Duffy move. **Adjournment** at 5:20 PM by acclimation.