

## **MINUTES**

ABSF Board of Directors Meeting

Monday December 4, 2023

3:00 PM

Birkie Office

**Board Members Present:** Paul Eckerline, Sue Scheer, Chris Morley, Madelaine Rekemeyer, Jan Guenther, Andy Ubel, Kris Bjerkness, Karen Manske

**Electronically present:** Kathie Pautsch, Mike Mandli

**Staff Present:** Ben Popp, Mike Brown

**Absent:** Yuri Gusev, Bill Brown, Tom Duffy

**Approval of Agenda:** Pautsch move. Mandli second. **Approved.**

**Approval of Minutes** from October 16, 2023 meeting: Bjerkness move. Morley second. **Approved.**

**President's Comments:** Paul Eckerline

- The ABSF Christmas Party will follow this meeting.
- An anonymous donor is working with Birkie staff to work out an agreement for purchase of the golf course which would make it available to the ABSF. Sue Scheer will recuse herself from discussion/voting on this matter due to a potential conflict of interest.
- Further discussion and voting on ABSF Inclusion Policy will be deferred until after the 2024 Birkie.

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

- Ben sent out a detailed report electronically prior to the meeting.
- Ben shared a map detailing the Golf Course land that was discussed previously. The land includes a Clubhouse with two existing apartments which could be remodeled to two double bedrooms. This would be particularly useful for housing people who help with our events and would also save money on housing costs.
- Snowmaking at MTV has begun. The crew and volunteers worked very hard throughout the Thanksgiving weekend. The new well allows us to pump 400 gallons per minutes (vs 150 gallons/minute previously). A 2.5K loop will be completed soon; goal is for a 7.5K loop. Sustainability for snowmaking needs to be a priority for the ABSF. We are hosting the JNQ races next weekend so the trails will be open after that event is completed.
- Base Camp construction at MTV has been delayed due to a subcontractor change for the framing.
- January will be a busy month for staff as we have events scheduled every weekend.
- Mount Telemark Development:  

The committee is working to raise \$1M by the end of the year. We had a recent donation of \$300K. An exceptionally large (51K) mailing will be going out soon. Donors who give \$1000 or more will receive a commemorative hat. Other fundraising includes a Tattersall Event, Park at the Start, Birkie Bash, and a large matching donation.

We were not awarded the Bremer Bank grant, but they asked us to reapply. Other grants are in the works.

We will have Base Camp “hard hat tours” on Birkie Sunday.
- Birkie 2024 will bring a talented group of athletes with many members of the US Ski Team and Europeans expected. The prize purse has been increased.

- Board members are encouraged to help at the ABSF/Mount Telemark booth at the Birkie Expo.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Finance:** Mike Brown and Kris Bjerkness

- November financials will be coming out later this month.
- Base Camp Construction Loan Summary and details were shared. We are approved for \$2.8M (80% of construction cost) and this has been finalized over the past several weeks with Johnson Bank. A condition of the loan is that 75% of fundraising for our building must go toward repayment of loan.
- Our cash balance for MTV is \$288K. We have total pledges of \$1.2M. We have verbal commitments of \$692K and a strong prospect list of \$1M. With our available funds and 95% of prospective funds the total is \$2.194M.

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

- This was discussed under Director's Report as Bill is unavailable today.

### **Birkie One:** Chris Morley

- Today's event at LCO was cancelled due to many students being ill. Weekly events with LCO youth are ongoing.
- Committee is discussing ways to increase outreach. They are also working on securing ski equipment for youth and are looking for donations.

**Documentation Committee:** Karen Manske

- The website has been updated.
- Recommend that we vote on the updated Procedures Manual in January.

**Old Business:**

- Inclusion Policy

The motion made at our October meeting will be tabled until after the Birkie.

**New Business:**

- Kristy Maki updated the board on events planned for our 50<sup>th</sup> Birkie celebration.

There are over 13K registered for all Birkie week events compared to 11,200 last year: 7,500 for Saturday events, 1,300 for Korte, 750 for Prince Haakon and 1,215 for Open Track.

Opening ceremonies are added for Wednesday after the Open Track Event at 5PM in the Celebration Zone. We will have warming stoves, beer tent, ice sculptures, historic displays, and a Tribal Drummer's Circle. Ernie St. Germaine will be present.

Welcome dinner is Wednesday night after the Opening Ceremonies at the Ranch Restaurant and will be donor centered.

Thursday will also be a big day with the Barkie Birkie filling up, Barnie Birkie with 1,200 kids expected (school groups also have a virtual option this year), Junior Birkie with 400 expected. Giant Ski Birkie is at 5PM.

Birkie Bash is Thursday night with 400 people expected.

Award Ceremony is scheduled for 3PM on Saturday.

Nancy Knutson is returning for our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to lead the media coverage.

We are looking at upgrading aid stations due to increased numbers of skiers.

Tent costs have gone up this year. Increased numbers also means increased costs for bibs, hats, busing, etc. Staff are looking at the budget daily.

- Our next meeting is Monday January 15, 2024, 3PM at Birkie Headquarters.

**Motion** to adjourn: Morley move. **Adjournment** at 4:30PM by acclamation.