

MINUTES

ABSF Board of Directors Meeting

Saturday August 8, 2026

1:00 PM

Mount Telemark Village

Board Members Present: Paul Eckerline, Kathie Pautsch, Andy Ubel, Bill Brown, Mike Cleary, Chris Morley, Kris Bjerkness, Mike Mandli (Emeritus), Sue Scheer (Emeritus), Tom Duffy (Emeritus), Mick Endersbe (newly elected)

Electronically Present: Marit Ross-Sonnesyn

Absent: Jan Guenther, Karen Manske, Jeff Olson, Yuri Gusev (Emeritus)

Staff Present: Mike Brown, Ben Popp

Approval of Agenda: This is an abbreviated meeting due to the annual meeting occurring just after this meeting. No agenda provided.

Approval of Minutes from June 27, 2026 meeting: Duffy move. Cleary second. **Approved**

President's Comments: Paul Eckerline

- Our next meeting will be September 21, 2026.
- Board member election results will be announced at the Annual Meeting which follows this board meeting. Congratulations to new board members Mick Endersbe and Aaron Mock as well as incumbents Bill Brown and Kathie Pautsch.
- Nordmor Update: Andy Ubel continues negotiations with Nordmor representatives. An agreement is getting closer, which will include an HOA maintenance agreement and an easement with landowners.

Executive Director's Comments: Ben Popp

- Ben is seeking approval for Snow Mountain Ranch Event. This event was initially conceived to be part of a Sno Racing Fundraiser. It is also a way to introduce our brand to a different community, which is a key aspect of our strategic plan. (The recent Superior Trails and Ales event went very well and as a result we have two new sponsors and more participants to access.)

Motion: Move to approve the Snow Mountain Ranch Event concept (final name to be decided) and to go forward with planning the event with special consideration given to protecting our brand.

Scheer move. Morley second. **Approved** unanimously.

Team Sno Racing: Marit Ross-Sonnesyn

- Team Sno Racing requests ABSF continue to support the team. Marit sent out a written proposal for an updated sponsorship agreement asking for \$10K cash sponsorship plus targeted in-kind assets totaling \$6K in value. This would place ABSF as a Gold Level sponsor. Sno Racing commitments to ABSF include Brand Representation on team apparel, Digital Promotion (social media promotion of Birkie events), Youth Recruitment Initiative (goal to introduce one hundred new junior skiers to the Korte), and Newsletter/Email Marketing.
- Discussion of this proposal included:
 - Our budget is very tight. We have already reduced our surplus from our goal of 3% to 1.8%.
 - ABSF's ongoing priority is to focus on increasing the use of the facilities that we have built over the past several years.
 - There is general support for continuing in-kind support, as well as an event with Snow Mountain Ranch which would also serve as a fundraiser for Team Sno Racing.
 - The request by Team Sno-Racing includes complimentary space at the Birkie Expo (valued at 4K) which is a loss of income to ABSF.
 - Birkie staff will come up with a proposal to indicate what ABSF can provide to Team Sno for in-kind support (to be discussed at our next board meeting).

-Several board members expressed the opinion that ABSF should continue to make a monetary donation to Team Snow to match the \$10K donations provided by both CXC and the Loppet Foundation (with the caveat that Team Sno continue to honor their commitments). As the budget is deemed not sufficient to provide this funding, several board members have agreed to make restricted donations to ABSF this year to be used for Team Sno Sponsorship, with the goal of obtaining the \$10K requested.

-Marit indicated that Sno Racing Commitments to ABSF will be brought back to her committee to be determined.

New Business

- Our next meeting is Monday 3PM September 21, location TBD (most likely the Hayward Public Library). This meeting is taking place on the 3rd Monday of the month vs the 4th due to schedule conflicts of staff members.
- **Motion** to adjourn: Duffy move. Meeting adjourned at 1:50PM by acclamation.

Addendum:

- On September 8 the following motion was made electronically after Ben Popp sent an email requesting an affidavit of authority to apply for a building permit for a storage building. This arose as The Portage Bar would like to store their mountain bike shuttle truck at Telemark Village. The Portage has offered to fund 50% of the cost of a building that would be shared with ABSF (which we could use to store our snow guns and pumps). Staff are looking into the need and viability of this but would like to initiate the building permit process so this is done should we choose to move forward.

Motion: Move to grant Ben Popp authority to seek a building permit for a storage building at Mount Telemark. Board approval is still required for construction.

Ubel move. Pautsch second. **Approved** unanimously.