

**Whitehorse Cross Country Ski Club
Board of Directors Meeting**

Date: January 19, 2009

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: Grey Mtn Room, Mt. McIntyre Rec Centre

Meeting Attendees: Mike Gladish, Kelly Cooper, Ian Robinson, Derrick Hynes, Tom Ulyett, Jim Gilpin, Doug Knutson, Lorna Hutchinson, Bill Curtis, Sierra Vandermeer, Craig Thur

Regrets: Katherine Sandiford, Niki Deneault

Agenda Item #3: Previous Minutes

Board Lead: Tom Ulyett

Tom sent a reminder to Sylvie about initiating a ski host program

Mike Gladish sent the letter out to Dan Reimer

Tom conveyed to Sue Johnson the Board's position, re: Friends of McIntyre Creek

Tom & Derrick sent out to Board members their rationale for changes to the Dog Policy

Derrick - History Project – we missed the deadline to apply for STEP program, so this project won't go ahead

Motion to accept minutes: Bill Curtis. Seconded: Craig Thur. Carried.

Action Item: Lorna will post to website.

Agenda Item #4: Financial Report

Board Lead: Ian Robinson

- bank balance: \$100,295.89

MOTION by Ian: that we transfer \$30,000 into GIC

Seconded: Bill Curtis. Carried

Agenda Item #5: Business Plan Review/Update (only goals that were reported on)

Goal #1 – the section of Lower Valley from Crossroads to Valley Link was widened so PB can groom

Doug is working on a system to check and record the state of our fleet of snowmobiles and to determine how and when they should be replaced

We will be applying for a City Rec grant in March. One project will be an update of the K+Z plans for a waxroom expansion. The plans were done by Tony Zedda several years ago.

The city will be installing an elevator in Mt McIntyre Rec Centre for wheelchair access between the two levels

Agenda Item #8. Dog Policy

Board Lead: Tom Ulyett

Tom sent out an e-mail on January 4, 2009 with respect to the wax room entrance area and dogs (attached to hard copy of minutes).

Discussion: With the melting conditions, there is a lot of dog remains around waxroom, stadium etc. Mike has had to talk to people about unleashed dogs on trails, where dogs should be tied up at waxroom and where dogs shouldn't be on the trails. Discussed whether we should do a major dog policy change right now. Perhaps we should go with the education route. Discussed educating members for two weeks, then putting in a new policy. Discussed whether only ski club members should be able to take dogs on the trails (not day pass users).

The wording of a motion was discussed and Derrick agreed to draft up a motion and send it the Board members for voting on within the next 24 hours.

Action Item: Derrick will send out the motion and get a seconder and voting will take place via e-mail. If motion is passed, a new e-mail will go out to members.

Agenda Item #10: Father Mouchet award

Board Lead: Mike Gladish

This award is usually given out each year at the Loppet banquet.

Action Item: Mike will send out an e-mail to everyone explaining the criteria of the award, and we will make a decision on the recipient at the February meeting.

Agenda Item 11: Snowboarding in Stadium

Board Lead: Mike Gladish

Mike reported that now that Mt. Sima is open, this hasn't been an issue. In future, we will look at fencing off a portion of telemark hill for snowboarding and checking out the insurance issues that go along with this.

Agenda Item #12: Recognition of Syd Horton's work with the Club

This item has been tabled to the next meeting.

Manager's Update: Mike Gladish

- 1,190 members
- Christmas pass booklets sold very well and we were over-budget
- Day passes have slowed down, probably because of the cold weather
- Mike has allocated two parking spots near the stairs for CCY staff parking
- Raven's Ridge – now that the work on the 10 km that the developers have done, we must now give them a letter saying we don't oppose their development
- Poker Rally – set for Jan 21st to celebrate the new lights
- Overflow parking – Mike is meeting with Doug Hnatiuk of the City to discuss the overflow parking area, which could also be used for overflow for the Canada Games Centre

Information Items:

Agenda Item #13: Business model study

Board Lead: Derrick Hynes

Derrick received four bids for this proposed study. The bids were higher than he had expected. One bid was chosen. We have applied to CDF for the shortfall – we should know by February 14th, if we received funding. We requested a 60/40 split with the club contributing approximately \$8,600.00.

MOTION by Bill Curtis. If CDF funding is approved, we will go ahead with the project.

Seconded by Jim Gilpin. Carried.

Agenda Item #14: Waxroom renovations (discussed under Business Plan)

Agenda Item #15: WCCSC relationship with Ski Patrol

Board Lead: Tom Ulyett

Tom will have lunch with Tim Sellars from the ski patrol to discuss the Ski Patrol's needs for 2010 Nationals.

Agenda Item #17: Directors' Reports

Doug – is working on reorganization of facilities director position

Craig – Jackrabbits has started – running well

Sierra – working on volunteer sheet

Next Meeting: Monday, February 16, 2009 – 6:30 p.m. Grey Mountain Room – Mt. McIntyre Rec Centre

e-mail Tom Ulyett to Board members

January 4, 2009 (for attachment to January, 2009 minutes)

Dear board members,

At the December board meeting it was reported by Mike and other board members that

- there are an increasing number of dog issues;
- a significant number of dog owners ignore the rules (e.g. letting their dogs run free outside the waxroom, dogs not on a leash to the Dog Trail, dogs charging other dogs and skiers, poop on the trails, ect);

- there has been at least one near encounter between a dog and a child this season outside the waxroom;
- there is a real risk that a child may get hurt; and
- things are often out of control.

It was suggested that in the interest of members safety -- and especially children's -- dogs be banned from the waxroom entrance area immediately and for the remainder of this season to allow the board to fully consider this problem. It was noted that members could still ski with their dogs using the trailhead at the south end of the CGC or the overflow parking lot. In the end, the board decided that it would be better to think about this problem a bit more before deciding whether or not to impose a ban. It was agreed that, with Derrick's assistance, I would send a note to the board to generate dialogue and a decision.

Background

Under our Strategic Plan, the WCCSC's vision is to provide excellent ski trails and facilities. Our mission is to providing X-C skiing in a friendly, safe environment. Our values include family participation, safety and a welcoming environment. One of our goals is to maintain a safe environment.

The WCCSC has permitted dogs on part of its trail network for many years. The decision to do so was made when the club's membership was less than 500. With almost 1200 members, the WCCSC is one of the few clubs of its size to allow dogs on its trails. Nonetheless, the Club prides itself on being dog friendly. About 35% of members ski with their dogs. Just as the number of members has increased, so has the number of dogs in the area of the waxroom entrance and on the trail network. The ground rules for dogs at the Club are set out in the Dog Policy. Some of the important rules from the Dog Policy are:

- Dogs must be on a leash from a skier's vehicle to the Dog Trail and this includes all walking and skiing until the skier is on the Dog Trail;
- Dogs must be tied up in the designated area, which is located 50 metres south of the Wax Room entrance;

- The only access from the Wax Room to Dog trail is via the Sumanik Drive Bridge and Ketzta Connector;
- Dogs may be taken off the leash on Dog Trail but must be under the owner's control at all times; and

Owners must clean up after pets. There are baggies and a waste container between the Wax Room entrance and the tie up area.

The Issue

The club manager and some board members have observed a significant increase in the number of dog-dog and dog-human conflicts this year. There also appears to be more members who don't follow the rules of the Dog Policy relating to the waxroom area and on the trails between the waxroom and the Dog Trail. There is a concern that a member, even a child, may be injured by a dog.

Possible Solutions

1. Do nothing.

(Tom's comment: Not an acceptable solution as goes against our Strategic Plan and exposes the Club to increased liability for injury to a member or a dog)

2. Continue to educate members about the rules in the Dog Policy -- by posting notices in the waxroom, at the top of the stairs and in the biweekly email to members -- to enforce the rules and to advise members that infractions of the policy could lead to their membership being suspended or revoked.

(Tom's comment: Is already being done and is not working)

3. Ban dogs from the waxroom entrance area for the remainder of the season.

(Tom's comment: A logical interim step until the board decides how to proceed on a long term basis)

4. Inform members that, for safety reasons, the board is considering an amendment to the Dog Policy that would permanently ban dogs from the waxroom entrance.

(Tom's comment: A logical first step)

5. Consult with members on the problem via email until March 31 and decide by the May planning meeting what changes, if any, should be made for next season ("consult" does not mean that members have a vote or a veto).

(Tom's comment: Should be discussed at the next board meeting)

6. Ban dogs from the club.

(Tom's comment: Further discussion required)

7. Amend the Dog Policy to permit only members -- not day pass users -
- from skiing with dogs.

(Tom's comment: Further discussion required)

Next Step

Let's discuss this through email and then decide on some next steps at our January 19 meeting.

Tom