



Jan 13 2020
Saskatoon Nordic Ski Club
Draft Executive Meeting Minutes
Held at Residence of Susan Wall

Present:, Kate Germin, Ivan English, Gail Motsi, Jeff Thorpe,
Kimberly Dobrowolski, Eric Lamb, Susan Wall.

Regrets: Dan Brisbin, Sheryl Riis, Brian Anderson

Meeting chaired by Gail Motsi. Minutes recorded by Susan Wall.

Meeting called to order at 19:04pm by Gail Motsi

1. Agenda approved.

2. Correspondence-

- On Jan 11 2020 SNSC hosted a ski event with participants from the Global Gathering Place at Wildwood. The event went really well.
- There was a request for SNSC participation in Winterruption. This was declined by members of SNSC executive on the grounds that it is a long day with little interest in the ski club information.
- CCS sends Gail Motsi event reminders and updates via email. Gail asks if the rest of the executive is interested in receiving these. Everyone agrees they would like to see the email passed forward to the executive. Sue will post events on the Google calendar.

- A caller had inquired as to the possibility of doing a parent and baby ski afternoon. Gail had directed the caller to plan her event at the time of ski at school so that if washrooms were needed they would be available. Ivan suggested that such callers be encouraged to become SNSC members before being advised or assisted by the club in these sorts of events in the future.
- A person inquiring about skijoring options in the city was directed to contact Jeff Hehn, leader of the fat biking group in Saskatoon. They are more aware of the condition of the multi-use trails in the city and at Blackstrap.
- To further discuss skijore – Ivan expressed an awareness that more members of the club would be interested in skijore in the future. Would the executive consider the possibility of a loop at the new location for this activity. Sue agrees that there is need of a place for skijore activities that will not damage our carefully groomed loops. It may now be possible to skijore at Man of Trees, a fat biking trail on the far west end of the city.

3. Approval of Previous Minutes-

Ivan noted that the discussion about FOTB should mention snowmaking but not lighting.

Motion by Kate Germin to accept Nov 25, 2019 minutes.

Ivan seconded. Carried.

4. Business Arising From Previous Minutes-

- Wintershines participation: Ivan had phoned Jeff Hehn to see if SNSC could help with the winter triathlon event. Jeff said no help was needed, volunteers are already in place for the Jan 26 event. Event should be held at Holiday park as a bike-run-ski. In the future it may be possible to apply for a Winter City grant for such events.
- JumpStart grant from Canadian Tire. The grant is available on equipment purchased at Canadian Tire or its affiliates. If SNSC needed more ski equipment we could consider purchasing it there. No purchases are currently foreseen. Kimberly suggests we make families aware of the JumpStart grant at the start of the ski season to help with their equipment. Kimberly will look into JumpStart details. We could possibly advertise this grant in the Kivilski. We could also consider an equipment orientation for families new to Jackrabbits and present grant information at that time.
- Signage at Wildwood: Ivan has placed a request with Roxanne at the City of Saskatoon for more signage at Wildwood. Kids are skiing on the golf greens in front of the clubhouse. Eric wonders if we can put more pressure on the City to fence the areas on the course that they really do not want skiers to ski on. Ivan states that as a club, it is our responsibility to do our best to educate people on what areas are not for skiing. He suggests we groom an extra track at Wildwood to get the kids to the hill without going over any greens.

5. Treasurer's Report-

- November reports to be discussed. December was not ready yet.
- Kimberly reports that we received \$4,000 in membership fees in November. This is on track with last year. Of these funds, \$500 was for HiPer, \$620 was for Youth programming.
- The City of Saskatoon grooming grant has arrived.
- We have \$40,000 to date in revenue. This is over half of our budgeted revenue and \$6,000 more than last year at this time.
- Expenses: \$2,500 was spent on Do It Green Design- the golf course architect for Holiday park. This was the highest expense for November. We had budgeted \$12,000 for this work, so it is under budget. The City grant money of \$2,000 for this has been awarded and will be applied to this cost. Ivan has sent in the report and expects the money to arrive soon.
- SNSC paid \$1,400 in Saskatchewan Ski fees, \$1,000 in equipment and fuel and a payment to Eb's Source for Sports for HiPer.
- Expenses total \$26,000 so far this year. Last year they were \$22,000 at this time, thus we have spent \$4,000 more than last year.
- SaskSki Association fees are reflected in membership fees currently. There were 53 memberships.
- So far we have not exceeded our budget on maintenance.
- We have \$62,090 in our bank account at the end of November.

- Kimberly followed up on her investigation of mileage rates. Our rate of \$0.40/km is at par with funding from MAP. Therefore, rates appear to be appropriate. Gail offered to ask at the next CCS meeting if they are considering a rate increase for mileage in the future.

6. Facilities Update-

There has been no meeting yet with FOTB/GHSC. Greg Yuel is the **fundraising chair for the FOTB**. Ivan has spoken to Greg, who will also express concern over the cross-country ski facility plan. Dan had suggested to Ivan to not ask members for donations until the snowmaking equipment plan is resolved. Gail concurred. Ivan will put an update on the Facilities in the next Kivilski.

Ken English is currently grooming a new loop at Holiday park. The City of Saskatoon is still grooming the regular 3km loop. SNSC is still hoping to be able to groom at Holiday park. It is hoped that the City would groom Kinsmen park in the future so that SNSC could focus their energies on Holiday park. A decision about where we will groom next year will be taken at the next Executive meeting.

FOTB has not yet given any indication as to what the rent costs will be for SNSC to rent the new facility. There will also be added costs due to snowmaking. SNSC will need to look at a fee increase. As fees need to be increased prior to fall registration, to raise fees for next season, we would have to have a members' meeting in the spring to present the new fee schedule for approval. If we choose to leave a fee increase until the AGM, fees will not be increased until Sep

2021. The executive will re-visit this discussion at the next meeting. We can investigate the fees of other clubs providing similar structures: night loop lighting, snowmaking, heated shelter and equipment storage. We can also investigate snowmaking costs other clubs incur. Gail expresses concern that it would be preferable to know approximate expenses before initiating a fee increase.

Grooming: City of Saskatoon is still happy to groom at Holiday park. The City is likely unaware of the time and effort SNSC puts into the trails and the after-working hours that are needed. Ivan has spoken to the Mayor's office, and suggests we may have to become more political to get the grooming freedom that we are going to require for this site and to make the transition from Kinsmen to Holiday as smooth as possible. It is possible to work together, or to encourage the City to take over Kinsmen when SNSC moves to Holiday park.

7. Eb's Trail Update-

- Jeff made posters to advertise for Eb's Day. Executive members are to hang them at visible locations. Kate has spoken to the person wanting to make a donation in memorial. The \$200 has been donated to SaskSport Trust Fund specifying Eb's Trails. Kate had looked into getting a bronze plaque made but the cost exceeded the donation value. Kate considered making a wooden plaque for the donor and placing it in the requested location, or, obtaining a new bench from the local craftsman and leaving space on it for multiple names to be inset over time. This seemed

more plausible to the executive, or simply a sticker similar to the ones done in the past. Kate will speak to the donor again and report back next meeting.

- The mowing was completed and all trails cleared of dead fall by late October. Some side sloping areas were shovelled more level. The machinery was made ready for winter on Nov 1st. The first packing was done on Nov 30th. Up until last week we had minimal snow to work with but the trails had been groomed to the best of our ability. The beaver had made deep trenches in several areas where the trails go over the water bodies. Those have been shovelled in with snow.
- With the snow that we received over the past week we now have good track almost everywhere. There are just a few rough spots in a couple of the forested areas.
- Big Spruce Trail will be made into a two way this year with very clear signage that the bypass must be used if skiing in the Southeasterly direction. There will be a clear "Do Not Enter" sign indicating skiers are not to go "up" the big hill due to fast skiers coming down. A repeat sign to ski the bypass in that direction will be placed at the head of the bypass trail. A clear directional sign will indicate the direction of the South hut when coming off the bypass.
- Junction maps are being renewed as needed. Direction arrows are assessed and will be remounted where needed.
- The Regina Nordic Ski Club's yearly visit is on Jan 19th this year. The trails will be freshly groomed for their visit. A note is in Kivilski encouraging our members to come out to welcome them and socialize.

- Eb's Day is planned for Feb 16th with a bad weather alternate day on Feb 23rd. The organizing committee has advertised it in the Kivilski, all planning is under way.
- The track by the swamp area on west Beaverlodge was diverted last year due to so many big dead spruce coming down by the water and the area was often so windswept. In that diversion, a new rest area with a bench was made in a small clearing of birch trees overlooking the lake. The new rest spot is called 'The Birch Bower' and a carved wooden sign was mounted. Perhaps this could be on the maps when next they need to be printed.
- Kate is to be the primary communications link between the executive and the Eb's Trail team. Gail moved to appoint Kate as a Director at large, communicating Eb's information with the executive. All approved. Gail volunteered to sign off on any other decisions regarding Eb's Trail that are brought to the executive.

8. Equipment Manager Update-

Brian had a new track setter for the tiddteck made. This should push the snow down in little snow conditions and make a track. We will use this in the fall/early winter to make a classic track at Wildwood.

9. Youth Program Update-

Programs are running smoothly. New first aid kits and Rubbermaid containers with blankets have been added to our ski areas at Wildwood and Kinsmen. These items are required by Nordiq Canada for Jackrabbit programming.

There are 120 Jackrabbits registered. The biggest limitation Eric is facing is the administration, followed by coaching. He is wondering how and when to approach parents to start thinking about taking the coaching course for next season. Nordiq Canada is becoming more strict in ensuring instructors have completed the course prior to coaching. Eric would like to see a fundraising effort for a potentially paid administrator, especially if the programs were to grow in size. This could then also include member related questions. Gail said that the Ski at School program has paid for administration in the past. However, it was agreed that it would be difficult to pay for administration when the club is expecting expenses related to the new facility.

10. Adult/HiPer Update- (via email from Dan Brisbin) –

- SNSC will host Sask Cup 4 and 5 at Wildwood Nordic Centre on Feb. 1 and 2. The race notice will be posted this week. New this year is that Special Olympics athletes will participate. We can use a few more volunteers - anybody interested can contact me.
- There was a level 2 officials course in Saskatoon in early January. Dan Brisbin was the instructor and SNSC now has three new level 2 trained officials who will be certified as by the end of January: Andrew Brisbin, Lorelei Ehman and Bruce Simms.

11. Ski at School Update- The program was to start last week, but most sessions had to be cancelled because of cold weather. It will continue into March.

12. Touring Update – (via email from Sheryl Riis)

We now have snow, and most of the trails (at Eb's Trails) are now groomed. Trail conditions are reported on Yahoo Groups, and the Nordic Ski Club website. The Regina Cross-country Ski Club plans to have fun, at Eb's Trails, this weekend. Skiers are using Yahoo Groups to connect. Members can meet on Sundays, at 9:45 a.m., across from the Lawson Civic Centre, in the Lawson Height's Mall parking lot, for carpooling, to Eb's Trails. Skiers also organize to meet, for carpooling, at other times.

13. New Business-

- Kate says that a beautiful hand-made groomer sits in the bush at Eb's Trails. She wonders if we should consider bringing it to the city for use here. It is best in deeper snow conditions. Ivan says we could use another groomer at Holiday Park. Kate will look further into the possibility of moving it.

14. Date of Next Meeting: February 24th 2020 at 7:00pm.

15. Meeting adjourned at 9:19 pm by Gail Motsi.