



Oct 15 2020
Saskatoon Nordic Ski Club
Draft AGM Minutes
Held via Zoom

Executive Present: Kate Germin, Ivan English, Gail Motsi, Jeff Thorpe, Susan Wall, Dan Brisbin, Brian Anderson, Sheryl Riis

Regrets: Kimberly Dobrowolski

Attendance:

Richard Koch, Richard Rance, Kate Germin, Robin Butler, Kathy Butler, Jared Orynik, Joanne Ferguson, Sandra Sawatsky, Daryl Sexsmith, Ken English, Cathy Rae, Al Theede, Sam Butler, Sandra Grismer, Glen Grismer, Colin Whitfield, Alison Meinert, Geoff Meinert, Nancy Howse, Rob Howse, Darrell Lutzko, Merlin Toth, Lynne Meredith, Heather Millar, Brian Suderman, Lane Zabolotney, Nicole Andre, Brett Bradshaw, Miranda Jones, Randy Chapman, Doreen Chapman, Darla Saunders, Bruce Simms, Adrien Blais

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

Meeting called to order at 19:00pm by Gail Motsi.

- 1.** Zoom introduction and instructions – Richard Rance
Richard was thanked for his support to the Club on Zoom before and during the AGM meeting.

2. Introductions and Welcome
3. Order of Business- presentation of agenda
4. Previous minutes from AGM held Sep 23 2019 presented by Gail Motsi. Miranda Jones moved that the minutes be approved. Cathy Rae seconded. All are in favour.

5. President's Report- Gail Motsi

SNSC had another successful year in 2019/2020, grooming several sites in and near the City and delivering programs for instruction and competition for adults and youth. Ski at School ran well, one outreach event to newcomers occurred. The season was extended into April so lots of skiing happened. Competitions went well.

Some directors and volunteers who have been with us for a long time are leaving, including Dan Brisbin. Dan has been on the board and volunteering for many years. Eric Lamb and Kirsten Ketilson are stepping down from youth programming, Alison Meinert will take over. Kimberly Dobrowolski is stepping down as treasurer to pursue studies. Thank-you to these volunteers for all their hard work.

The upcoming season will have some challenges but we plan to continue with programming and grooming with a few changes to ensure the safety of participants during COVID-19. We are looking forward to the upcoming season.

6. Treasurer's Report – Gail (for Kimberly)

Financial statements were presented. The accountant concluded that nothing came to his attention. This is good. Last year's revenue was \$90,757 for SNSC and blind skiers. This includes money from memberships, programs and grants. Expenses were \$62,883 for the ski club for programming and operations including grooming, communications and management. Blind skiers expenses were \$15,041. This resulted in a ski club surplus of \$12,895 and Blind Skiers had a small deficit of \$62.

Gail moved that the Financial statements of Sep 23 2019 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, as reviewed by Gabriel Ng CPA P.C. Inc.be approved. Sandra Grismer seconded the motion. All in favour, motion carried.

Financial reviews are acceptable for businesses and non-profit organizations earning less than \$250,000 annually. A financial review is less rigorous and expensive than an audit. Gail moved that the requirement for an audit of the financial statements for the fiscal year ending in June 2021 be waived and that a financial review of the books be conducted. Seconded by Sandra Grismer. All in favour. Motion carried.

Gail moved that Gabriel CPA P.C. Inc. be appointed to conduct the financial review for the 2020/2021 fiscal year. Motion seconded by Dan Brisbin. All in favour. Motion carried.

7. Membership Report – Jeff Thorpe

Last year (2019/2020) SNSC had 654 members. This year it has taken longer to get membership registration in place. The executive is proposing that membership fees for the 2020/2021 season be increased to \$60 for an individual (10\$ increase) and \$120 for a family (\$20 increase). The proposed increase will be used for increased costs at the new facility and lighting. We may need to increase fees again at a later date to further cover the new costs. Registration will be opened on Zone 4 by the end of October.

8. Facilities Update- Ivan English

Grooming: SNSC will continue grooming the 4 ski areas: Wildwood, Kinsmen, Holiday hill loop and Eb's. More grooming will be needed on the 1.5km Jackrabbit loop at the Gordie Howe Sports Complex (GHSC). Construction has started at GHSC on the buildings and lighting is in place. Fencing is added to the south end of the loop where the trail connects with the Holiday Park loop that the city grooms. Trees are being planted around the skating oval. Some of the hills have been smoothed and re-seeded with grass. The main building will not be ready for use until May 1st 2021. However, GHSC is planning on opening the track and field storage building and heating it for use as a warm-up area for speed skating, nordic, and possibly public skaters. Because skating and skiing share similar time slots, some discussion will be needed to determine SNSC's use of this space for programming. The rental cost for the facility is \$2,500. Lighting is \$15/hour.

SNSC intends to apply for a grant to upgrade trail contouring. Snow-making is still proposed for a later phase of development, but will require much thought, as it is labour-intensive and expensive. Qu-Appelle Valley is going to try it this year, so perhaps we can learn from them.

9. Eb's Trail Report – Kate Germin

Eb's trails will be groomed as usual. The fall trail clearing and clean-up is complete. Due to COVID-19, the Eb's committee decided to not do Eb's Day in 2021 but will make sure the grooming is great during February break and encourage skiers to go skiing. The huts will not be used for warm-up, but will not be locked. A new metal firepit will be placed at the south hut with stumps for stools so that people can light an outdoor fire. The bathrooms will be open. Signage reminding people to keep their distance will be put up and skiers will carry their own hand sanitizer for use before and after using the bathrooms.

Snowshoe trails are to be better developed – flagged and tracked in so that the snowshoe enthusiasts will know where they can go. It is expected that there will be an increase in snowshoe usage.

The Eb's committee would like to set up a phone app so that skiers, notably non-members could make a donation to Eb's trails while they are there skiing.

10. Equipment Report- Brian Anderson

The expenses for repairs last year were much higher than usual due to several significant equipment failures. SNSC has purchased a BearCat snowmachine for use in the city to replace the much older Alpine machine. Snowmachines will continue to be stored at Randy Chapman's house for grooming at Kinsmen, as there is nowhere else to keep them right now.

11. Youth and Youth HiPer Report- Alison Meinert

So far 30 coaches have signed on to teach the youth programming. This will allow for 195 kids to participate. Lessons will be on Sunday, Wednesday and Thursday and will be held at Gordie Howe. The SNSC is proposing a fee increase of \$15/skier. This will help with the new rental fees, and allow for the hiring of a part-time administrator.

There are currently 27 skiers participating in youth HiPer, so the group has approached the maximum gathering limit of 30 people. Currently the skiers are training twice per week. There are no out-of-province travel plans at this time. Once CCS announces their winter sport directives coaches will have a better idea of what the race season will look like.

12. Adult Instruction Report – Bruce Simms

Bruce is hoping for a good winter of teaching adult lessons. The groups are always small so lessons will proceed as per usual, with some re-consideration of how the indoor introduction to teaching will be done. Learn to classic ski

lessons should happen in December, and learn to skate lessons in February, both at Kinsmen Park.

13. Adult/HiPer Update- Robin Butler

Currently, the adult HiPer group is meeting Tues/Thurs and Sat to run and roller-ski. Grapefruit cup is intended to continue as usual with interval starts and no use of the indoor space.

14. SaskCup Update- Dan Brisbin

Last year, SNSC hosted a SaskCup race at Wildwood. It was very successful with lots of volunteers and athletes including para-athletes and special olympic athletes. This year, we have agreed to host provincials on Feb 6 and 7 2021. This is tentative as we don't know if we will be allowed to run races at all this winter.

15. Touring Update – Gail Motsi (for Sheryl Riis)

Spring and fall hikes have been cancelled this year due to COVID 19. Spring hikes in 2021 are TBD.

16. Ski at School & Outreach Update – Gail Motsi (for Jan Sedgewick)

Jan is still waiting to see if school boards will allow outside activities. There are also unlikely to be any outreach activities with newcomers.

17. Blind Skiers – Joanne Ferguson

The blind skiers started meeting on October 3rd with fall hikes. There are 10 blind skiers and 7 guides. Members were encouraged to volunteer as guides. The blind skiers would prefer to use Wildwood's facilities on Saturdays. This group is short two guides this season and are currently looking for 2 volunteer guides.

18. Proposed Budget – Gail Motsi

The proposed 2020/2021 budget includes the proposed membership fee increase for single adults (to \$60) and families (to \$120) as well as the fee increases for youth instruction. Grants will be provided by Cross Country Saskatchewan and the City of Saskatoon. The executive proposes that we take \$1,700 from the National Sports Trust Fund donations for city grooming and apply this money to the cost of the new BearCat snowmobile.

The Budget shows SNSC will have \$84,627 in revenue and \$78,249 in expenses to run programs and do grooming. There is an increase in expenses compared to last year due to the move to GHSC and the associated costs. In addition, a paid part-time administrator to help with youth programming will increase the expenses.

It is important to remember that there are a number of expenses that we need to save and plan for in the future including trail upgrades, lighting on Holiday Park and possibly snowmaking.

Gail motions that the proposed 2020/2021 draft budget be approved, including the proposed increase in membership fees and the use of National Sports Trust Funds. Brian Anderson seconded the motion. Motion is passed.

19. Nominations for 2020/2021 Executive

Current nominations include the following:

Gail Motsi – President

Ivan English – Vice President

Brian Suderman Treasurer

Sue Wall – Secretary (nominated and seconded)

Directors: Jeff Thorpe, Geoff Meinert, Brian Anderson, Sheryl Riis, Kate Germin

Nominations were invited from the floor. There being none, the Executive and Directors were elected by acclamation.

Gail asked for a volunteer to act as bookkeeper. Daryl Sexsmith has been performing this role for five years and will be stepping down this season. Daryl was thanked for all of his work.

20. Other Business and Questions

There were some questions as to the signage at Wildwood to keep skiers off the greens, and walkers off the ski trails. Ski etiquette at Wildwood needs improvement. This will be discussed at the next executive meeting.

It was noted that many people are likely to be skiing for the first time this winter and members were encouraged to welcome and assist new skiers on the trails.

21. Meeting Adjourned

Meeting was adjourned by Gail Motsi at 8:43pm.