

Greek Peak Board Minutes

9/19/22

Charles Baker Conference Room, Hope Lake Lodge

6 p.m.

Board members in attendance: Brian Boerman, Sheri Freemantle, Rebecca Vonbergen, Todd Shilliff, Kim Gorey, Amy Derito, George Tamborelle, Josh Finn, Karl Granroth

Others in attendance: Mo LaFalce

Members absent: Matt Hoff, Jeff Rachlinski

Executive Session

Rebecca makes a motion to give Mo a \$2000 raise. Karl seconds.

Unanimous approval.

Approval of August Minutes

Kim motions to approve, Todd seconds. Unanimous approval. Josh and Karl abstain because they missed the previous meeting.

Program Director's Report: Mo LaFalce

- **Coaching staff:** Almost all coaches are returning. Yu Ning is moving to Colorado, and Aubrey might race for Cornell. Otherwise, everyone is coming back. We are looking for a coach for college racing and more U10/U12 coaches. Compared to last year, we are in better shape hiring coaches. Leads are coming from a variety of sources including flyers, social media and networking.
- **Races:** Race schedule is fairly set.
 - We tried hard to get a U16 race, but it didn't work out. The dates NYSSRA offered to us didn't work for the mountain.
 - U10/12 race March 5. The rest of the U10/12 schedule is not out. Kandahar will be the third week in March. There will be three Kandahars in the state for U10/12s.
 - U14 race will be January 22. C
 - ornell race will be January 28-29.
- **Mountain meeting:** Last week, Brian met with Wes and Kimberly.
 - Productive conversation about hill space for training. They are pushing to add additional programs, which impacts our hill space.
 - The Mountain Resort wants us to find space for the Inter Collegiate Race Training (ICART). This will add about 25 athletes to the hill for training.
 - Mo has major concerns about safety of night training with more athletes. They did replace all of the lights on Fields and Stoic. It should make visibility better.
 - Talked about opening Christy's earlier to create more space for race training. They are open to closing Odyssey Monday-Thursday nights from 3 p.m. to close. This will help us set more gates, etc. on that trail.

- NASTAR is a lower priority for the mountain. Mo is proposing that we can use Christy's to set courses on weekend morning, and then let NASTAR set up in late morning/lunch time.
- Brian asked Wes to turn Apollo's Hollow into Alpine Race Center with lighting, a clubhouse, snowmaking, race training, etc. Wes would like us to write this up to propose to capital partners. Our program, Cornell and ICART is 250 athletes plus their families.
- The Mountain doesn't want race registration at the lower lodge. They want us to use the A-Frame. Brian asked to clean up the A-Frame for race days. John Meier had someone look at restoring the A-Frame.
- **Coaches' education:** Level 100 certification is pushed out to 2024-25. It's nice to have more time to get coaches certified. Mo would like to bring in a coach trainer to do a session with our coaches.
- **U.S. Ski and Snowboard Registration:** Board members need to be members of U.S. Ski and Snowboard as a volunteer, and need to do SafeSport and avalanche training. October 16 is the deadline, and there is a late fee after that. SafeSport is a 5-year cycle. SafeSport is transferrable from different organizations.
- **Dryland starts this week.** Small group this year.
- **Skills Quest will be October 2.** For U14 and up athletes. Sign up on Admin Ski Racing.
- **Fundamentals camps are open** for registration.
- **Officials:** Mo is trying to recruit new officials. Existing officials will have a refresh through Zoom. One in-person clinic and an exam. Most of the learning happens on the race hill.

Registration: Sheri

- Registration is nearly full. We have three more kids than we had last year. On the whole, registration has gone better than Sheri expected.
- Mo: It's challenging to provide a quality program for so many kids.
- Josh: Could we gauge how deep the interest is with a waitlist? That way we know what capacity we could build towards moving forward. Maybe in the future, the board can support a larger program. It's great for kids and families and we should support it as much as we can.
- Mo has been involved since the mid-80s. This is the biggest the program has been since then. The program has gone through cycles where it grows to a point where we can't find enough quality coaches. In the past, the club couldn't find enough quality coaches, and then the quality of the program falls, and membership shrinks.
- As the programs go, the coaches don't know the kids as well. U10s has doubled in size. Above 17-18 kids is a different ball game in terms of keeping it structured. No seasoned coach to work with that group this year. I feel like right now we're bursting at the seams. It's finding coaches who can coach kids, but also help organize the program. It's great to grow, but if we're not offering a good product, what's the point?
- Josh: What tools do we need to give the club to support that growing program? I appreciate the history of where the club has been, but we don't really know how it will play out.
- The limiting factor is qualified coaches. All of the coaches are doing it because they want to be here. We have so many coaches who want to come back, but they can only give one day. This doesn't provide continuity for racers.

- Brian: Demand is the sign of a successful club.
- Mo: As kids move up, it difficult to find quality coaches at the higher levels. We are doing the right things. We increased coach pay, we are paying for coach training.
- Kim: In the future, could we open up Black Diamond to more than one day a week? Maybe could relieve pressure from the U10/12 program in case the kids just want to ski more days.
- Brian: The first challenge with this thought is Black Diamond competes with the mountain's ski school..
- Mo: We could make this a survey question. It can be challenging to find coaches who want to work two days. Could be an option like the U12s. The Black Diamond group is less than a feeder program than Gatebusters.

GPSC Swap – Kimberly

- The Cornell Ski Team used to help with the swap clean-up. Unfortunately, it falls on Cornell fall break. As we have a growing college population, we should think about asking them to help with the swap in the future.
- Layout will be different his year. The area between the store and ticket sales will not be available this year. Race skis will move outside, but separate from the regular skis. Snowboards will be where the race skis used to be.
- Need to set up better lines to avoid chaos at the cash registers.
- We are missing door guards.
- We need to hire one person overnight. It's typically someone from Cornell who stays to watch the skis over Friday night to Saturday.
- We could approach the mountain to hire workers.
- On Monday, October 10 there will be no power to the building. This is typically our vendor and consignment pick-up day. We have generators if we need lights.
- Consignment will more formal with a check-in and check-out. We're also going to have time slots to drop off and pick up. We'll put the tags on when they get there.
- Hops event will be near Lift 1 in the grass area.
- We need volunteers for Thursday with a truck who can drive around to gather B-nets, tables, etc.
- Need more moveable clothing racks, folding tables. Want to get away from having snow pants folded on tables.

Committees

Marketing

- Fall Graphtex online store. Slight changes to designs coming.
- Jacket Orders: Rebecca will get jackets and pants to try on at the swap. Any color.

Hill Committee

- **Fall Clean** Up day is this coming Sunday. They must be 16 to help. Two people on the slalom start build.
- **New Clubhouse Quote development**

- Need approval for funds to start the design work on the building. The builder estimated excavation and utilities at \$100,000, which the mountain is willing to do for free.
- Rough-in, concrete, electric, insulation - \$250,000. Metal, wood or mixed material. 5,000 square feet with vaulted ceiling on half and loft on the other half. 10 foot overhang.
- \$1,000 for preliminary design work, plus another \$1,000 for further designs for zoning boards.
- Board would like renderings as well.
- Karl motions to spend no more than \$4,000 for designs, stamped drawings and renderings. Sheri seconds. Unanimous approval.
- Josh: Is there criteria of what goes into the plans? I'm happy to join the building committee.
- George: Kitchen, potentially showers.

Sheri makes a motion to adjourn.

Karl seconds.

8:40 ending.