

## **Greek Peak Board Minutes**

**2/13/23**

Zoom

6 p.m.

**Board members in attendance:** Brian Boerman, George Tamborelle, Todd Shilliff, Sheri Freemantle, Jeff Rachlinski, Karl Granroth, Josh Finn, Amy Derito

**Others in attendance:** Marisa LaFalce, Wendy Weichert, Rob Gault, Amanda Elliot, Amelia Yoder, Jenn Pluta, Jill & Jon Greene, Angela Jensen, Kevin Streeter

**Board members not attending:** Rebecca VonBergen, Matt Hoff, Kimberly Gorey

- I. December and January minutes.
  - a. Added attendance details.
  - b. Jeff moves to approve, George second. Unanimous approval.
- II. Treasurer Report: We moved \$80,000 to a CD 2.9 percent interest for 13 months. We have \$40,000 in a money market account, which we can access easily.
- III. Facilities committee
  - a. We reviewed our current lease agreement with the mountain for the Apollo's Hollow site. It's a memorandum of understanding written in the 1980s. It will be expiring in the next five years. (For background, Ski Patrol and Adaptive Skiing do not have lease agreements, but because we would like to plan a capital project, we need a lease agreement.) The mountain asked the club to write up a new agreement. Brian is working with a real estate attorney who is a member of the club.
  - b. A-frame bathroom: When it's a mess or something is broken, we need to notify the mountain. It has improved in the past month.
  - c. A-frame heat: The ducting in the Zephyr lounge occasionally blows cold air. Brian: it could be that someone shuts off the blower in the breaker box. Rob: there's also an outlet that's gone bad in the A-frame. Rob has run an extension cord.
- IV. Hill committee:
  - a. Karl: When we netted for the college race, we were a little short on nets. Karl estimates we need 10 more nets. We could also replace some green nets. We will not encounter another race this season where we are short. We were lucky we were short for a college race; this would not have worked for a U16 GS. There was a time in the past when we would borrow a small number of nets from Lab. A net costs \$128. There are some on the hill we're using with holes in them. Karl will go to the mountain to count and determine exactly what we need.
- V. Director's Report – Marisa LaFalce.
  - a. It's been a crazy few weeks with athlete injuries (U16 lost two athletes in a week to injury) and the weather is affecting training. U14 and older coaches have done a good

job collaborating on setting courses. U12 and under have collaborated with Gatebusters on Saturdays.

- b. We did mid-winter reviews with coaches and parents. We decided to reach out to parents of different age groups to a meeting. At GB/BD level, it happened informally over the course of a few weeks. At the U10/12 level, parents signed up. U14s put a window out there when they were available. At the U16 and older levels, it more informal because coaches had conversations during travel. Coaches said it was a productive use of time. Dialogues were positive. More than 90 percent of U10 parents participated. About 50 percent of U12s participated. U14s had lower attendance rates. 90 percent of Gatebuster parents had conferences; BD had about 80 percent attendance at conferences.
- c. There has been some shifts in coaching. Gary left and Chris Pluta has taken his place. Aubree had a medical issue, and will be out for a while. Mo is looking at other coaches to pitch in and help.
- d. It's unprecedented to have this much warm weather. Our training has to be more responsive to the weather. We can only train GS when the conditions are safe. Athletes need to be prepared to be flexible. When snow is soft, we can't ski GS.
- e. We hosted a successful college race. The A-frame was too crowded. There were a lot of complaints from parents. For next year, is there a better way we can manage this number of people? Maybe an ambassador to welcome and set some guidelines for the college students. Maybe we could try to schedule the college race when more of our race teams have away races.
- f. U16/18s had a good number of people going to ESWG. They "postponed" the Super G. There is talk of adding that day back at States.
- g. U14 schedule has been challenging. Rule in the Comp Guide: In order to participate in NYS Championships at all – even just tech – you have to participate in two speed days. This is creating problems, especially because Song was unable to host their Super G training day. They are adding a day at Holimont and Mo is requesting waivers for these athletes to go to states.
- h. U10/12s are off to a good start. Unscored dual at Lab was fun and successful. Race at Song was a long day. They did awards differently, which led to some sad kids. For scheduling and post-season, Piche will happen the same weekend as Kandahar. The Yoder family is hosting coaches at their home for Kandahar. We need to decide whether we will support Kandahar Champs for U12s. (Kandahar Champs used to be a qualifying race for U12s.) Now Kandahar Champs is the last weekend in March as an open event in Holimont. It could be a nice opportunity for second year U12s to prep them for U14s. But it's not clear how many people will be in the field.
- i. We sent 5 U14+ athletes to Ski Cross at Gore. We had several other kids who wanted to go, but had conflicts. We sent two coaches: Mike Nadolski and Owen, a new coach who volunteers with the U12s who has a Ski Cross background. The course happened to be pretty intense – big jumps and banked turns. After seeing how it went, we could offer it to U10 and older in the future. We'll continue to explore and see how to integrate. To host, it requires a lot of snow and grooming support. Greek Peak can't support that kind of course.

- j. GB/BD have three Saturdays left, and Wendy and Mo will plan a party. For race programs, March 26 will be the final celebration of the season.

#### VI. Post-Season Travel Funding

- a. Brian: When our racers travel during the regular season, to events the Club supports, we pay for coaches lodging, meals, gas and salary. This year, we have \$14,000 budgeted for regular season travel, up from \$9000 last season. Last year, we decided that when athletes qualify for out of state events at the end of season we will pay the coaches' salaries. The other fees are shared equally between the athletes attending the event. This also applies to spring races that you don't qualify for.
- b. Karl: Why don't we fully fund post season travel? For U16 and up, I want to be proud of the athletes that we produce. It really hurts me to think an athlete wouldn't go because of these extra costs. I think we should be on record as a club saying, "we support this."
- c. Josh: I don't think we should limit it to specific ages. For younger athletes, it is a great opportunity to help them stay invested in the sport.
- d. Mo: Travel cost is a little more than \$200 a day minimum. That is something the families cover right now. Coach pay varies, but would be \$100+ a day.
- e. Jeff: The history is ad hoc. There is an antiquated rule that if the race was in the state, we would fund it. This didn't make a lot of sense. After that, the parents would coordinate with the coach. But it shouldn't feel awkward when you know the coach to offer a ride together. That's historically what happened. Jeff's opinion: Hiring the coach is supporting the kid, but paying the coach's travel is not. We should talk about this in the summer because we don't have a budget for it right now. Historically, this is how board have gotten into trouble financially. We would be taking this money from general funds. This is how we have drawn down cash reserves in the past.
- f. Rob: I was the treasurer in the past when we discussed this topic. We always considered how many participants are going and what fees do we increase to cover this cost. We have done that in the past.
- g. For spring races, Coach Jason has been racing and does not charge the club. The policy is that it's split with the parents.
- h. Josh: We're trying to be early talking about this topic, but we're probably not early enough. We need to look at this in a long-term way in the budgeting process. We could set up a fund or an allotment. We could divide the fund by how many kids are qualifying for races. It's an easier way to project the budgeting.
- i. Karl: I did proposed creating a fund last year.
- j. Jeff: I'm okay with a kitty, but I want to know where it's coming from. If it's coming from a building fund, I think a building is more egalitarian.
- k. Amy: I would like to see us set aside some money to support athletes who qualify for post-season races. I think we need to celebrate their successes.
- l. Brian: We all support our athletes and we all want to find a way to do this better. We're going to be in the fundraising mode soon. We should put this on the list. The timing is difficult. The budget is set in the fall. I'd like to table this for now and put it on the list. Is this more important that establishing a scholarship fund to support athletes who can't afford to be here? That's important too.

- m. Karl: Thanks for the discussion.
- VII. NYSSRA sanctioned races
- a. We've been discussing the idea of holding non-NYSSRA-sanctioned events at the U10/12 level. We join US Ski and Snowboard and NYSSRA. They set the rules, and this year they told us we had to run our races as sanctioned races. (There are problems because you have to have the memberships to go to post-season events.) We are all very angry at U.S. Ski and Snowboard, but the head taxes pay for TDs and subsidize NYSSRA camps. The way I interpret the agreement, that means we can't invite Lab and Song to a race at our mountain that isn't sanctioned, but there are other ways to read that.
  - b. Jeff: How does Song have a race on Saturday that isn't sanctioned? They call it a "fun race."
  - c. Mo: Robin's Race is also not sanctioned.
  - d. Josh: Central Council is in a precarious place right now having lost Toggenburg. In the short term until we can figure out how to build some resilience in the Council, I don't think we can eschew our relationships at this point.
  - e. Brian: What can we do to make Central Council stronger? Instead of what should be doing to tear down Central Council?

Next meeting: Monday, March 13

Motion to adjourn: Jeff motions, George seconds. Unanimous approval.