

WRNSC Annual General Meeting Minutes
Wednesday May 25st, 2016

Attendees: 14 voting members.

Chair: John Clarke

Venue: Manulife Centre, RIM Park. Pizza and salads were ordered for dinner and social that preceded the meeting.

Meeting was called to order by John Clarke at 6:30pm.

Opening address: John opened to say that although it had its challenges, the season was still successful. He also offered thanks to the many volunteers. He then had each of the adult attendees introduce themselves.

The Program Reports were then presented.

Detailed written reports were distributed to accompany the program presentations. Major items and recommendations were as follows.

1. Financial Report: Sandra distributed copies of financial statements for the period May 1st, 2015 to April 30th, 2016. These consisted of an Income Statement, Comparative Income Statement (to prior year), Actual versus Budget for the period and Budget showing preliminary for the coming season and that of last season. Total Revenue was \$27,842.03 while Expenses totaled \$22,027.97 leaving Net Income of \$5,814.06. John noted that original budget had showed a deficit of \$765.00. Current GIC's total \$30,116.25 and they produced interest of \$485.19. Colin also noted that the club currently does not track depreciation on items such as the snowmobile.

John motioned to approve the financial statements.

Seconded by Colin, All in favour, carried.

Recommendations/comments: Upon viewing the planned rental equipment purchases, Eva expressed concern that large increases in rental equipment may require additional administration. Ken suggested that the club might try setting different pickup dates for the various groups. However all agreed that more rentals could require more storage space and also impact on equipment transportation. There may also be an opportunity to cull older unused equipment. John suggest that this may be a topic for future discussion by the new board.

2, Youth Instructional Programs: Ken reported that the club provided instruction for a total of 88 youth in 3 separate age groups. Although snow conditions and changes to Bechtel Park made this a challenging year it was still a very successful year. Early season dry-land training was offered and the ski season lasted for 8 weeks versus 6 offered last year. Some racing was again included in the core program. Ken noted that he was very pleased with the support received from the parents of the youth skiers. Going foreword we hope to retain a high proportion of last year's skiers. Ken expects that next year's registration could be from 75 to 100 participants.

Recommendations:

Instructors: We may require 16-17 (as compared to 13 this year) if numbers approach 100.

Officials: Additional parents should be trained as Level 1 officials. Ken expressed concern that next year there will be only 1 Level 1 and 1 Level 2 official leaving the club with no backup for those positions.

Bechtel Park:

- Improve lighting in fields near the parking lot.

- Only half of the lights were turned on for youth sessions.
- The service road and access points to the woods were lost due to cemetery construction. Because of this it is too difficult for the younger skiers to go into the woods. Also lack of shelter in wind and cold
- The area is just too small to accommodate the youth programs on one day. Scheduling groups on different days may not be practical either due to availability of instructors.
- The club should search for an new trail site while still investigating if we can obtain improvements at Bechtel.

Junior Outers & Paranordic: Ed reported that the Junior Outers consisted of 3 skiers last year. 7 weeks of Dryland were offered and 9 weeks of on snow sessions.

1 skier attended an O cup and 2 high school skiers qualified for OFSSA. Unfortunately weather conditions were such that they couldn't attend.

1 skier attended the Mono Nordic Orangeville and 2 attended the Suntrail Special in Hepworth.

The small size of the group very much limited what the group was able to do.

Ken did note that in a couple of years there may be an influx into Junior Outers from those currently in the lower divisions. However for the immediately coming season the group may be even smaller.

Paranordic had 1 sit-skier last year but it is expected that there will be 3 next season.

Ed also noted the reduced area at Bechtel created more challenges when several groups were using the trails.

Recommendations:

- Try to organize a more formalized touring group to get to trails with good snow.
- Explore ways to increase interest in racing and support for those interested in racing.
- Create more formal training plans for those interested in racing.
- Explore alternate, non-racing, skiing activities.
- Continue to plan activities such as waxing clinics or training theory.

There was also discussion as to development of recreational and performance streams or mixing of skiers from Magic Rabbits and Outers. Colin suggested that there might be some training opportunities with the university team as well. Ken noted that he wants to hold an instructors meeting before determining what form the program offerings can take. Colin noted that the next board should finalize the programs as soon as possible.

4. Adult Programs: Greg reported that Learn to Ski registrations totaled 33 for last season.

This was a decrease of 1 from last year. Most sessions were completed successfully. There were 14 registrants in the Adult Touring Group. However participation rates were low, possibly due to scheduling conflicts as well as inconsistent ski conditions. Dryland training was also offered but although the turnout was low, a small core group did attend consistently.

Recommendations:

Continue to offer the same programs.

5. Bechtel Park: John distributed a report for Stephan Latour who was unable to attend.

The annual wood chipping took place in October 2015 and snow fencing was erected in November.

The season overall was very poor with very sporadic snow.

There were several problems noted at Bechtel this year.

- Single row of lights on the lower field was insufficient leaving many dark areas.
- Distance from the fields to the woods was too long for the young skiers.
- Overall space is too crowded for the number of youth skiers.
- Race registration inside the complex is no longer supported by the city.
- The culvert near the end of the diagonal run was completely exposed.

Recommendations:**Trails:**

Wood chip the diagonal run towards the river and repair the exposed culvert.
Continue to snow fence the upper field and hill parallel to the baseball diamond.
Build a snow park down hill from the baseball diamond.

Dogs/Skiers:

Still many conflicts regarding off leash dogs and dog droppings left on the trail.

Snowmobile: Buy additional batteries so that each groomer has one.

Bechtel Park:

Lobby the city to have both rows of lights on and allow race registration in the back room/office.
Investigate use of the ball diamond as stadium when it is decommissioned and the flat area beside the playground for Jackrabbit instruction.
Investigate alternate sites should the cemetery expansion prove too challenging for the number of users in the reduced space.

6. Orion Race Series:

Colin reported that all events were canceled last year due to snow conditions. The Jackrabbits did run some races on their own. While there is one club member trained to Official Level 2, the club will be dropping from 3 members to 1 with Level 1 next season. There was also difficulty recruiting volunteers for the events that were canceled at the last minute.

Recommendations:

- Continue to set the race schedule in late fall.
- Recruit volunteers as soon as snow hits in December.
- Get more volunteers trained at Level 1.
- Advocate to city to have indoor registration space available.

7. Equipment Rentals:

Eva provided a report showing the number and types of rentals for past several years.

There was a significant increase in rental this last season with 88 members renting.

Eva noted the following.

- 16 families did not return equipment at the banquet and 6 did not return on the 2nd return date.
- Toco stickers were used for the first time to id equipment.
- Significant amount of new equipment was purchased or donated.
- Boots were disinfected.
- Roller skis were added to inventory
- Black tire elastics to used as ski ties. This is working well.

Recommendations:

- Require 1 bin for boot storage and 2 ski bags.
- Next year roller skis will be added to the spreadsheet
- Some numbering of equipment still required.
- Put mailing tape over the Toco stickers to
- Establish better way of communication than e-mail. Colin suggest collaborative software. This could be a project in the future.

This concluded all of the season reports.

Season Highlights:

John summarized with the season highlights.

- The club experienced an increase of 50% in youth membership.
- Considerable new equipment was purchased.
- Success of the HKCC program.
- Most lessons were offered despite the lack of snow.

He again thanked all volunteers and especially departing board members, Edith and Sandra.

At this point, in accordance with the club bylaws, the meeting proceeded with the election of the new board of directors

Election of New Board:

The following five members were nominated for election.

Colin Rhodes

Greg Harling

Bill Henry

Nera Sarovich

Laura Seaman

John Clarke then called three times for further nominations. There being no further nominations, the nominations were closed and the above were elected by acclamation.

Note: Jana Campbell, a non-member, also expressed interest in joining the board. The club bylaws require that a nominee to the board must be a club member so this was addressed by motions in the board meeting held immediately following the AGM.

Colin, at this time expressed the club's appreciation to John for his several years of service on the board and his time as president. John will not be returning to the board as he will be moving to Ottawa.

John then motioned to adjourn the AGM. All in favour.