

WRNSC Annual General Meeting Minutes
Wednesday May 23rd 2018

Attendance: 11 voting members plus Darren Carter representing Waterloo

Chair: Colin Rhodes

The meeting was called to order at 6:20pm.

1. Darren, who was in attendance representing the City of Waterloo, volunteered to act as scrutineer.
2. Because the attendance was sufficient to meet the bylaw requirements Quorum was established.
3. **Approval of Agenda:** Motion to approve by Oliver, Seconded by Nera, all in favour, carried
4. **Approval of Minutes from last AGM:** Copies had already been electronically distributed to members of the current board. Motion to approve by Ken, Seconded by Oliver, all in favour, carried.

5. Reports:

Detailed written reports were distributed to accompany each presentation. Highlights and major recommendations were as follows:

6. President's Report:

Colin first thanked the volunteers for making the season a success in the face of very difficult conditions. The club has maintained a strong membership base while experiencing significant growth in the youth programs. Additional grant funding from the City of Waterloo allowed more equipment purchases. We expect to run a deficit next year as we continue to upgrade equipment. He outlined the increasing challenges associated with operating at Bechtel Park as a home base and that the club is investigating other venues. Presently the most attractive is Rockway Park and he expressed hope that the club may use Rockway on a trial basis with Bechtel as a back-up site. He also mentioned the snow making proposal that SOD is planning for a member club and that Highlands, Hardwood and Kawartha are presently applicants.

7. Presentation and approval of financial statements:

Jana provided copies of Budget to Actual for this past season, Actual to Budget for next season and Current Balance Sheet.

There was no revenue or cost associated with the bus trip this year because that trip was canceled. As well expenses were lower due to fewer days of skiing and no Orion races held.

Next year's budget assumes that the Highlands trip will be reinstated. The budget assumes that there will be no Project Grant from the City of Waterloo as was the case last year. Bechtel Park costs are shown based on an average for recent years. There was also some discussion regarding the possible increase of fees for Bunny Rabbit group. Oliver questioned this and Ken pointed out that increasing the fee slightly might have a positive impact on member commitment. It was decided that any changes to program fees would fall within the range of the new board. Financial statements have not yet been reviewed by our accountant. Motion to approve by Jana, seconded by Bill, all in favour.

8. Equipment Rentals:

Eva provided a statistical report showing equipment rentals throughout the years. She commented that the equipment pick up went very smoothly. Ken pointed out that we should try to track skate and classic equipment separately as might better allow us to see where gaps in inventory might occur. This is something that will be looked at in future. Colin noted that the popularity of the jacket and racing suits indicates the need for someone to fill the role of clothing manager. This would involve

measuring sizes and maintaining adequate quantiles. He also noted that we need to improve our messaging to members regarding the jacket discount for junior racers.

9. Youth programs:

Ken provided a detailed report highlighted by the following. There were 97 youth members in 3 separate age groups. We had 15 instructors and have added two new instructors at the ICC/CC level. Snow conditions were challenging, particularly at Bechtel but more instructional sessions were provided than last year. We had a race team that appears to be gelling quite well with participation in 3 SOD races this year. Going forward Ken hopes to be able to have some skiers in the Midget Championships and/or an Ontario Cup next season. He would also like to recruit and train at least 2 new instructors for the younger age groups and upgrade qualifications of our 2 existing instructors to L2T level. Also additional parents should be trained as level 1 officials. When asked by Colin if he has thought about succession planning for his position Ken responded that he is fine for this year and will ensure adequate succession planning is in place when needed.

10. Adult programs:

Colin reported in Greg Harling's absence. This season had 33 registrants in lessons, 24 classic, 8 in skate and 1 in both classic and skate. Although snow conditions were a challenge most of the sessions were presented. The Adult Ski Tour went to 2 venues and although participation was low those who did attend enjoyed the trips. Adult Dryland was successful with 11 registrants and well attended with Cailyn Burns leading. The Highlands bus trip had to be canceled due to very poor snow conditions. This trip was again organized by Edith Baer. The expense for lessons was under budget due to inability to recruit the desired number of instructors. Recommendation for next year is to recruit more coaches to allow program capacity to meet the demand.

11. Bechtel Park:

Colin reported in Stephan Latour's absence.

In October we again spread wood chips and reinforced the edges of sloped pathways. Later, in November, we put up snow fencing which did make a difference in trail conditions. Both projects drew good club attendance.

Again there were space limitations for the number of Jackrabbits although generally the season's snow conditions were a bit better than the previous year. Most grooming equipment held up well except for the gooseneck on the renovator and some electrical problems. This year there were 2 official groomers.

Recommendations:

Continue to wood chip at Bechtel and erect snow fencing the same way as last year.

Buy additional batteries for the snowmobile.

Possibly explore a grant for purchase of a new renovator.

Decide if we are going to give priority to Bechtel or Rockway.

- If Rockway decide on trails to be used, how they are marked and how to encourage walkers to stay off them.
- Provide storage for the snowmobile 24/7 lock and covered.
- Access to washrooms (and clubhouse for socializing and event planning).

Ken asked if a move to Rockway would change anything relating to our grooming and trail maintenance costs. Colin responded that it would not but covered inside storage versus outside would be easier on equipment such as the renovator.

12. Orion race series:

Colin would normally report on this. There were no Orion races run this year. Colin noted that the club might consider running time trials in future years in lieu of this series. Recommendation is to consider rolling Orion series into the youth program rather than having its own report and budget.

13. Discussion of future venues:

Nera provided a comparative spread sheet for various venues. This included Bechtel Park, Rockway Golf Club, Laurel Creek Conservation, Camp Heidelberg, Huron Park and Grey Silo Golf.

Rockway Golf Club appears to satisfy most criteria.

Ken is very positive on Rockway, having run several successful sessions there. The snow is better there than most venues and there is good separation of groups.

Colin noted the following issues to be addressed.

- Washroom access.
- Storage for equipment (might include on site storage for rentals)
- Stadium setup.
- Decide where the trails will go. (also walking versus skiing paths)
- Recommendation is that Nera should continue communications with Rockway.

The hope would be to use Rockway as a trial home base with Bechtel as a backup.

Colin indicated that this is a matter for the next board to investigate moving forward.

14. Board Elections:

All members of the current board agreed to stand for election to the new board.

Greg Harling had previously indicated that he wished to stand.

Colin then called 3 times for nominations. There being no further nominations and since all board positions were filled there was no need for an election.

Motion by Ken to approve the new board, seconded by Oliver, all in favour, carried.

There being no further business, motion to adjourn by Jana, seconded by Ken at 7:35pm.