

Sun Peaks Nordic Club AGM - April 6th, 2021

Attendees:

Ann Carter
Ivor McMahan
Elizabeth Parfitt
Paul Campsall
Tammy Ulmer
Neil Findlay
Sydney Johnson
Arlene Schieven
Dianne Smidt
Anise Barton
Ali Floyd
Sue Price
John Hoffert
Phil Youwe
Naomi Smith
Trent Smith
Anne Baughan
Caroline Thompson
Brennan Thompson

Called to order at 7:05pm.

Old Business

Motion to accept - Arlene, Moved by Anne Baughan, all in favour.

Treasurer's Report - Tammy

The Nordic Festival unfortunately did not take place this year. Equipment rentals were down this year, but there was a successful fundraiser.

Membership totals were increased this year over last with a total of approximately \$1300.00.

The Reserve Fund is presently at \$4972.96

The club has \$21,646.60 in the savings account.

The club has not yet received a cheque from the Corporation.

With regards to equipment rentals, that is the children's equipment owned by the SPNC that is rented out by the Corporation (the children's skis not being currently used by jackrabbits), the income from these daily rentals is split 50/50 with the resort and usually brings into the SPNC account approximately \$400 and half of this goes into the Reserve Fund for purchase of future skis. There were minimal rentals this year due to COVID.

It was noted the children's fleet of skis owned by the SPNC is quite large and there is a variety of sizes.

It was noted the new ski racks are in and the Sea Can for storage of equipment cost approximately \$500. A massive thank you to Trent and Paul for building the ski racks.

President's Report

Nordic skiing this year was more normal than a lot of other sports impacted by COVID. Unfortunately, the social ski programs were impacted but when restrictions were lifted Neil did attempt to have a fun, non competitive, social ski, however, only one person came. It was concluded it wasn't successful enough to continue with this. Perhaps this was due to some people still having reservations about social activities.

An adult biathlon day had been discussed previously but it was decided with the COVID limitations it would be too much to be feasible to arrange.

The Jackrabbit program was overwhelmingly successful this year. The new teaching area by Cottontail Trail was a nice addition and well used.

There was a lot of conversation regarding grooming. There was a new operator this year who did a great job. Last year the Resort undertook some summer grooming and the result of this was very obvious during the winter. Trails were immediately good to go from the start of winter. It would be good to repeat this success for the coming winter season.

However, there were some grooming concerns. The smaller Ginzu groomer used during the day does not have the substantial weight to pack down the trails adequately. It must be accepted that at times snow falls after the grooming has already been done for the night and it was noted by all of us that firm attempts were made to re-groom after snowfalls.

The parking area by the Nordic Centre was a focused discussion. There was increased usage of the parking lot and a mix of alpine and nordic skiers using the trail here. This trail was noted to get very gritty from the nearby parking lot and wasn't conducive for using good skis on. It was noted this was the only access for dog skiers to use and it was quite disappointing to have to use good quality skis on.

Points noted to advocate by the SPNC were largely on trail loss and trail classifications. The Resort has committed to replacing kilometre for kilometre for the length of trails lost while constructing the new subdivision, Altitude, in the East Village. Specifically, this would involve Whiskey Jack and lower Enguarde. It was noted that there is not an obvious candidate for another trail with the viewpoints that will be lost when Whiskey Jack is no longer available.

The SPNC would very much like to have a minimum of 50 km of trails. This is generally accepted as the "critical mass" needed to gain momentum on a provincial, national and international level. It is felt this critical mass point, if reached, could start to generate more interest and potentially more income for the Corporation.

Trail classifications were discussed with enthusiasm. The classification of the SP trails are seemingly not in compliance with the international standards. The current classifications are not easy to change due to maps that are currently already printed etc, Whiskey Jack is currently rated as blue but really should be designated as black. This discrepancy can be noted on other trails as well. This can be discouraging for visitors who come and attempt a trail and are faced with completing a trail they may not have the skills to negotiate.

The early ski season was discussed with the intention of wanting to develop an early season groomed area to attract committed skiers as early as November. The idea of a groomed trail at the top of Sunburst was enthusiastically discussed. Positive points to consider from this were

the idea of perhaps attracting ski racing teams. It was noted the chairlift is already operating during this time for the alpine ski racers therefore the lift could do double duty for skiers. Phil did speak to this idea as it is not new and noted it is hard to find the right person to get the momentum going for this idea. It is noted the SPNC needs to “sell” this idea with more gusto.

Trent also spoke to this idea stating it would be entirely doable to have a “hotel package” for the weekend and attract the lower mainland population. Even if there was simply a 5km route this would be a massive opportunity to sell SP as an early ski area. Essentially, this has been a lost opportunity. The only cost to this fantastic idea is the grooming involved to create the trails. “Unfortunately this has not fallen on the right ears” stated Phil. It was questioned who can the SPNC speak with to put forth this idea? Ivor stated he would draw up a semi formal letter addressed to Tim Foster. Ivor senses the resort management vision has shifted and he believes there is renewed optimism and things will change in the near future.

There was an aside again and talk regarding the P5 Parking area. It was suggested that snow could be cleared to the north side so dirt/gravel/ wouldn't be tracked onto the trail along with pushing back some trees to clear some more space. It was noted that no one wants to see parking spots be lost.

John Hoffert spoke to losing Whiskey Jack and a portion of Enguarde with the development of Altitude. Perhaps the design could be rejigged to integrate Whiskey Jack into the development and have access for XC skiers though the village? However it is recognized this may result in the snow mobile area being displaced.

It was noted there is a strong potential to have increased value of real estate because of nordic trails being in close proximity. This should be advertised more and the decision makers, or the developers, should be made aware of this.

Arlene spoke to the results of a municipality survey and noted the importance of nordic skiing ranked in third place! That is, the Valley Trails were considered of greatest importance at first place, followed by the hiking trails in second place, followed by nordic skiing. The results of this survey were another key find in assisting the SPNC to gain awareness and help the momentum of improving the XC ski experience. It was noted the indirect revenue gained from nordic skiing cannot be ignored.

Trent spoke to the idea of being in the resort and having the ability to simply park your car and not access it again for your entire stay in the resort. It is a huge bonus to be car free. Naomi and Trent both spoke to the idea that it is silly to have to get into your vehicle to access some of the resort. One should be able to ski to all the ski trails.

There was a prolonged conversation on the purchase of a grooming machine by the SPNC. Phil noted there is no roller. One could be purchased for approximately \$3000 which would allow use of the 84 inch Ginzu for new areas such as night skiing. Anise stated the SPNC should simply purchase the machine now, there was not a sensible reason to wait. The club should take the initiative and simply purchase one to expand the skiing experience. There was discussion around this idea. Sydney asked of there were operating costs associated with this machine. Phil noted there would not be an operating cost as the Resort would have the resources and staff to run it.

Neil made a motion to pre-approve payment of half the cost (shared with the Resort) to purchase a roller. Arlene seconded the motion. All were in favour.

John Hoffert noted for a beginner nordic skier skiing up to the lake is difficult. It would make sense to expand/ use trails by the Burfield Chair. This could be a good investment to expand on that area of the resort. Also noted was the grooming of the golf course and how there is a need from the Burfield area to access the transportation network.

Jackrabbits

There was positive feedback from the parents of this program.

The coaches were happy with the changes made this year.

The children were all issued their skis and were able to keep their equipment at home. The children generally all seemed to arrive with the appropriate gear and were ready for the day.

The sessions were shortened due to lack of access to indoor facilities.

The snack program was abandoned and this was regarded as a good idea and will be continued in future.

The days started with everyone meeting at P5 and skiing commenced straight away.

Generally the children skied more than in previous years, things were more concise.

There were two new coaches including two teenaged alumni.

There were 17 children aged 4-6.

On a positive note there are already five people signed up for the Community coaching Course which is scheduled for December 4th and 5th of this year.

\$2600 of equipment was ordered. SNS binding system is being phased out.

A fundraiser raised \$4180.

There was more conversation regarding a ski adventure playground/park which for the winter could be situated on a proposed outdoor summer wedding venue for 150-300 people. The resort has verbally agreed to the plan.

It was noted the Seacan will be move to the east end of the parking lot of P5. Perhaps it would be great to paint it or put a mural on it.

Anise spoke to the need for a proper Nordic Centre with bathrooms. It would be good to move the location of the nordic centre. It could be a world class ski destination if only there was a proper centre.

Phil stated he is an advocate for a multi-sport centre, one that would also facilitate summer hiking etc,. Moving the nordic hut to the end of P5 is perhaps not difficult but there are no ambitious plans currently and no promises.

Anise proposed the question if this could be a fundraising project? Could this be in conjunction with the Resort? Has there been any talk of this?

Phil spoke in regard to the need for advocacy, lobbying and a partnership with the resort for these ideas to gain traction. Anise asked of this should be a long term goal or on the agenda. Ivor spoke to the idea of applying for a grant to this idea. It is possible but usually grant writing falls to one person to carry this idea through and grant writing is time consuming and can be onerous for the person involved.

Also highlighted was the fact the usually great facilities were in close combination with racing clubs and that has not been the overriding agenda for the SPNC. Racing had not been what the skiing public is here.

Also noted by Tim is that better facilities will be needed for self-propelled sports and the idea be considered for a “hub” to include snowshoeing, fat biking plus x-c mountain biking in summer. It would be great to see a destination trail on Morrisey, and a 3km lit Nordic trail.

Arlene spoke to the lit trail and night skiing. A 3 km lit trail was thought to cost approximately \$240,000 and to have it lit by solar panels was thought to be even more expensive than that. Perhaps another thought is simply ambient lighting and LED lighting around the village.

Elizabeth spoke of mountain biking and the idea of writing for grants for a big project. There is a huge amount of interest on this sport and there is money out there that could be tapped if there was someone willing to take on grant applications.

Naomi spoke to the comparison of the SP racers and the good relationship between the Resort and the SP Racer Club. This is a good example of how the two entities can work together to complete big projects.

Naomi continued with the need for a Nordic Centre and this is a reasonable goal. We are dealing with a corporation that can get things done quickly and efficiently and this is not a government entity that can drag and prolong projects. We can propose anything and have a reasonable conversation about it.

Anise talked again regarding the advantages of a nordic centre. This would be a good facility for things such as pot luck dinners and not necessarily cater to events such as racing. It could serve as more of a day to day facility and the bigger purpose would be to be a revenue builder in the long term. She noted membership at Revelstoke doubled after they built their day centre.

Parent Involvement

Caroline spoke about parent involvement with the club.

It would be good to see extended training and children on the mountain training throughout the year and in conjunction with the SP school. It would be good to see this mixed with school programming and solidify the training, and perhaps extend the training into May. There was discussion on contacting the school PAC to help with incorporating this training, perhaps with their PE program. It was noted if the future school is built it will be near nordic trails and the playground. Ivor asked how to approach this and how to network for this. Caroline noted there is a lot of opportunity to collaborate. It would be amenable to make an arrangement with the school with regard to sharing/ using the nordic equipment. Caroline noted the PAC may have extra funds to devote to these endeavours. Ivor noted if we have a school program the club would have to be behind it.

Destination Challenge

This was successful this year with good participation. Online posting of completed challenges added to the enthusiasm.

New Business

Tammy closed the PO Box that cost \$180/year. She will use her personal address.

Phil noted in April all the dog trail signs were turned around allowing dogs to be on all trails for the remainder of the ski season. No fat bikes will be allowed. Grooming will still take place Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Election of Officers

Arlene, Sue, Tammy, Neil, Anne and Ivor will remain in their current positions.
The club welcomes Naomi as a Director at Large.

The election was undertaken as a bulk nomination. Trent made a motion to accept all the nominees and Ann Carter seconded this motion. All were in favour.

A motion was made to **adjourn** the meeting by Trent and seconded by Ann Carter. The meeting was adjourned at 8:36pm.