

Fernie Nordic Society Annual General Meeting
Sunday, July 19th, 2015
4:45 PM
Elk Valley Nordic Centre

MINUTES

1. Welcome from President, Megan Lohmann
- 41 adults in attendance
2. Adoption of Agenda – 1st Marilyn, 2nd Matthieu
3. Adoption of Minutes from July 20th 2014 – 1st Johnny, 2nd Mel
4. Directors Reports

Treasurer: Matthieu Corriveau

* See attached balance sheet

At year end on October 31, the Fernie Nordic Society should have used most of its funds for the current operations. This includes the small surplus left over from the operations of the previous season. The RMI grants received during the previous and current season have been used mainly for construction and expansion of new trails, construction of the warming hut and grooming of trails. These grants include the \$100K RMI grant received in August 2013 as well as the annual \$15K grant received through the City of Fernie. The balance of the \$25K grant from the province has been used for expenses on the warming hut. The CBT grants \$22K are still unused but are allocated to work on the trails during this summer and fall. We had an unexpected increase in membership and revenue during this season. As a result of the short snow season, our grooming expenses were lower than planned. A few of the additional expenses were the official opening of the Elk Valley Nordic Centre trails in March and some extra training. We have applied for additional grants this year to continue the improvements to the trails and the warming hut, and we are also looking for sponsors. The Nordic Society anticipates our operating expenses of the next season to grow again, so an increase in membership fees is planned for the 2015-2016 season. The fees for Jackrabbit lessons and the rental gear program will stay at the same level as this season.

Secretary: Melissa Fleischacker

In addition to taking notes and distributing to the board after monthly meetings, other tasks have included assisting with events and tasks as necessary throughout the season.

Director of Coaching: Clark Weber

* Clark was not in attendance, but sent the following report:

This past year we 72 kids enrolled in our SDP and had to turn some away as we did not have enough coaches. We rented equipment to approximately 64 kids. We had a total of 19 weekend coaches and 4 back up coaches. Even with this many it was still a challenge to coordinate having enough coaches every weekend. Having said that - and despite the challenges of the snow, I think we had a successful year. I feel we made the right choice keeping the ratio of kids to coaches at the 4:1 and it is the right balance. We will try and maintain that for next year - so if anyone is interested in coaching please let us know.

Director of Trails: John Shaw

INSERT REPORT

Director of Communication: Sam Sedlowsky

- Sam was absent from the meeting but sent the following report:
- helped rebrand the membership cards to include some useful information
- sent out two newsletters to membership throughout the season mail out outlining successes and upcoming opportunities

Director of Membership: Annie Duciaume

- 573 members this year

INSERT REPORT

Events Coordinator: Vacant

- Jen assisted with events this year, and next year the club will be hosting a Kootenay Cup. Still looking to fill vacant position.

Race Team: Jeff Williams

The 2014/2015 nordic season was an exciting one for the Fernie Nordic Society and the Fernie Nordic Race Team. It was at last year's AGM that we announced the start of the Fernie Nordic Racers race team. The Fernie Nordic Racers began training in the fall of 2014 with 8 athletes.

There were two main goals for Fernie Nordic Racers program, 1) to offer more on snow training and lessons for the athletes and 2) to attend all 7 of the Teck Kootenay Cup races. In the spring the team did dryland training two days a week and once there was snow we had three on snow sessions a week that incorporated training and technique lessons.

The team attended all 7 races throughout the East Kootenays with the kids, parents and even non-race team kids participating. We may not have won every race but due to our great participation the team won the Teck Kootenay Cup overall standings. Even more important the athletes learned a lot about being part of a team and learned life skills such as time management, respecting others and achieving personal goals.

The race team had two major sponsors; The Columbia Basin Trust and CrossFit Fernie who donated time in the gym for our dryland training. With the help from these sponsors and through fundraising the team was able to purchase wax and waxing equipment, new roller skis and a generator.

The Fernie Nordic Society also hosted an on snow camp that brought a national coach to Fernie and was attended by 12 kids. The weather was cold and rough but the kids toughed it out and it was a great success. We also started ski lessons for adults this year and the one day session sold out.

The snow camp and the race team could not have happened let alone be as successful as they were without the support of the volunteers, sponsors, the parents who drove their athletes to each race and of course the support of the Fernie Nordic Society. While the 2014/2015 season exceeded our expectations for the race team we hope to build on the excitement and success of the team and create another great season this winter.

Head Coach: Jeff Williams

Assistant Head Coach/Admin: Naomi Lentz

President: Megan Lohmann

The 2014/2015 season was by far the Fernie Nordic Society's most significant season. In the fall, we installed the beautiful Teck Bridge over Lizard Creek - bridging Galloway Lumber land to allow us access to an additional 5 km of trails built by Foothills Silva Culture. We worked with Foothills to get a pisten bully groomer up and running, producing courdoroy and tracksetting that was raved about (until it started raining, anyway!).

Our jackrabbits program reached capacity, and we saw great improvement in the implementation of the program with limited class sizes and excellent coordination between our parking attendant volunteers, coaches and Den Parents. Patience was appreciated as we battled poor conditions as the season went on - even moving a lesson to the soccer fields for games one Saturday morning. Head Coach Clark Weber has put hundreds of hours over the years to help develop the program, thank you to him! Our race team set the goal of attending 7 Kootenay Cup races - a goal that was achieved with great success. It was because of the enthusiastic participation of the race team, masters skiers and recreational skiers, that the Fernie Nordic Club brought home the Kootenay Cup - an incredible achievement for such a young club. Thanks to our Race Team Coaches, Jeff and Naomi, for all their efforts.

Despite the challenges with snow and temperatures, we exceeded our membership over last year by about 200 people. Annie processed every last one of these memberships, and our new card-based system worked well. The growth of the club is a testament to the growing interest around nordic skiing in our community, and the excitement around the new trail system. We celebrated the new trails with a Grand Opening, welcoming back Beckie Scott and her family. The first season of our

expanded trails allowed us time to identify areas for improvement and make our trail development plan for this summer. Work will begin on new sections of the trail system after July 31st. We will have signage (directional and informational) installed this fall as well.

We hired a new administrator this year as well, Jen Grebeldinger, who brings significant experience in fundraising, non-profit organization and management, funder relations and event implementation. She has helped to formalize our donor recognition process, and will be facilitating the development of the signage as a main project this summer. Jen coordinated a 2-day strategic planning workshop with a local consultant. We appreciate all her efforts thus far.

In terms of Presidential duties, I have been fulfilling the standard role of managing the Board meetings, developing agendas, and collaborating with the Directors on their roles as necessary. I have been continuing to work with landowners to complete the Elk Valley Nordic Centre, and assisting with grant applications. As the trails near completion, I anticipate a shift of focus toward Board governance. As we discovered through our strategic planning workshop, we have the opportunity to develop Board that can effectively oversee a larger and more structured team of volunteers. As our facilities grow and improve, we anticipate that our programming and membership will also grow – we will need the people-power to help facilitate that growth.

Thank you to all of our volunteers and members – we are so excited about the growth of the club, thank you for being part of the journey.

5. Annual Membership Dues as outlined below discussed with those in attendance

- **Previous** year membership
 - \$35 Student/child
 - \$45 Adult
 - \$110 Family, up to four. \$12 per additional child (insurance fee)
 - \$150 Corporate, up to six employees
 - Bunnyrabbit \$55
 - Jackrabbit \$65
 - Track Attack \$70
 - \$45 ski rental, \$25 per additional set of skate skis

Note: CCBC has increased their insurance to \$18/member. This represents a significant portion leaving the Fernie Nordic Society. More details available on the budget summary.

Recommended changes for 2015/2016

- \$40 Student/child
- \$55 Adult
- \$130 Family, up to four. \$18 per additional child (insurance fee)
- \$200 Corporate, up to six employees
- Bunnyrabbit \$55
- Jackrabbit \$65
- Track Attack \$70
- \$45 ski rental, \$25 per additional set of skate skis

When discussed with members in attendance, general feedback was that there is still a lot of value included with the proposed increase in fees. No negative feedback or opposition to this proposal from those in attendance.

6. Activities, Goals and Objectives for 2015/2016 Season

- Board participated in strategic planning session and came up with the following for the FNS:
MISSION: Providing exceptional x-country skiing opportunities for residents and visitors of all ages

VISION: A community of skiers supporting first class x-country skiing experiences

GOALS:

- High quality trails, facilities and equipment
- Excellent services and multi-level skier development programs
- Effective relationships and partnerships
- A vibrant, sustainable organization with an engaged membership

GUIDING PRINCIPLES: We are...

- Volunteer-driven
 - Safety-conscious
 - Welcoming
 - Transparent
 - Affordable
 - Collaborative
 - Innovative
- Jen provided an overview of donor recognition process – plaque will be displayed on wall in warming hut when complete – we will continue to recognize sponsors on this display, made by Bisaro Woodworking and put together by Matthieu
 - Upcoming tasks:
 - three culverts to be installed in the fall
 - hill cut-off loop to be added on the other side of the bridge
 - other trail maintenance

7. Adjourn @ 5:45 pm

Meeting for the Election of Officers of the FNS
Sunday, July 19th, 2015
5:45 PM
Elk Valley Nordic Centre

MINUTES

1. Call to order @ 6 pm
2. Selection of Chairperson – Megan Lohmann, Secretary – Melissa Fleischacker
3. In accordance with the Society Act Part 5 concerning the election of officers, the following rules apply:
 - The number of directors must be 5 or greater
 - The directors must retire from office at each annual general meeting when their successors are elected
 - Separate elections must be held for each office to be held
 - An election may be by acclamation; otherwise must be by ballot
4. The outgoing officers are as follows:
 - President: Megan Lohmann
 - Treasurer: Matthieu Corriveau
 - Secretary: Melissa Fleischacker
 - Director of Coaching: Clark Weber
 - Director of Social Events: Vacant
 - Director of Trails: John Shaw
 - Director of Communication: Sam Sedlowsky
 - Director of Membership: Annie Duciaume
5. Those persons who have agreed to let their names stand as candidates for the 2015/2016 term are as follows:
 - President: Megan Lohmann – 1st Mel, 2nd Jikke, all in favour
 - Treasurer: Matthieu Corriveau – 1st John, 2nd Annie, all in favour
 - Secretary: Mel Fleischacker – 1st Jen, 2nd John, all in favour
 - Chief of Racing and Programming: Clark Weber – note change of title – 1st John, 2nd Jikke, all in favour
 - Director of Events/Fundraising: remains vacant
 - Director of Trails: John Shaw – 1st Micheline, 2nd Patty, all in favour
 - Director of Communication: Sam Sedlowsky - 1st John, 2nd Jikke, all in favour
 - Director of Membership: Annie Duciaume – 1st Mel, 2nd John, all in favour
 - Director of Race Team Development: Jeff Williams – 1st John, 2nd Patti, all in favour

No further nominations for the positions

6. Motion to close nomination – 1st John, 2nd Jikke, all in favour
 - All positions were by acclamation, no ballots needed.

** reminder to all those in attendance that there are many volunteer opportunities with the board throughout the year and to sign up if interested

7. Motion to Adjourn @ 6:10 pm 1st Jen, 2nd John, all in favour