

Fernie Nordic Society (FNS) Annual General Meeting
Sunday, July 10, 2022
4:00 PM MT
The Elk Valley Nordic Centre (EVNC) Staging Area



1. **Welcome and Opening- 4:13 p.m. Meeting Commenced.**
 - Acknowledgement of Teck providing battery power for the event.
 - Thank you to Administrator, Alisha, for organizing the event.
 - Thank you to all of our volunteers for helping complete this morning's set-up.
 - Summary of a walk led by Marty Williams from Aq'am, who told us about the Aknusti (Guardian) program and ?aknumu?titit, the law given to Ktunaxa by the Creator, which is the purpose given to Ktunaxa people to take care of the land and resources. It was an impactful walk and one that 'planted seeds' as to how we might continue to improve our stewardship of the land.
 - Confirmation of Secretary for today's AGM: Sam Sedlowsky.

2. **Approval of Agenda- Motion** to approve the agenda 1st by Jen Heath, 2nd by Mike DeJong; no further discussion or changes.

3. **Approval of Minutes from July 25, 2021 - Motion** to approve minutes 1st by Le-Anne Walker, 2nd by Jim Miller; no further discussion from the floor.

4. **Co- Chair, Operations Support Report (Jen Heath)**
 - Jen has been a member and volunteer with the FNS since 2006, Director for the past 4 years.
 - She's assisted with safety, contributed to the Ambassador Program, facilitated and assisted with races and provides ongoing support with all things infrastructure and operations.
 - Jen implemented and monitored all past covid protocols.
 - She assisted with our Operations and Grooming Director change from Rick Wiess to Mike DeJong.
 - Jen provides support to Chair, Megan, where needed.
 - She passed along a heartfelt thank you to all of the FNS's Board of Directors.

5. **Treasurer Report (Matthieu Corriveau)**
 - Matthieu has been the FNS's Treasurer for 10 years.
 - He confirmed the club's financials are positive.
 - 2021-2022 saw a slight surplus of approx. \$1500.
 - The FNS broke a record in day pass purchases; a profit of \$14,000.
 - \$2500 raised from our membership as an optional supplement to support the club.
 - Fundraising efforts continued through on-going bottle depot deposits.
 - Main expenses included our membership fees with CCBC (Cross Country BC), insurance, equipment maintenance and grooming at approx. \$26,000.
 - There is currently \$32,000 set aside in a reserve for maintenance of our grooming machines and equipment.
 - The FNS received \$822,000 worth of funding to be put towards a new lodge and grooming shop; the club is currently in the beginning design phase of this project.
 - The 2021-2022 Annual Report can be found on the FNS's website.
 - The Skills Development Program (SDP) resumed this past season and Danielle Wiess took on the role of 'rental equipment coordinator'; thank you Danielle.

6. Secretary and Ambassador Program Report (Jane Stevens)

- Jane manages the Ambassador Program.
- She reported that the last couple of years during the pandemic have been challenging with protocols always changing; opening and closing the hut.
- Jane explained the role of the Ambassador which includes welcoming guests, selling day passes and keeping the fire going inside the warming hut out at the EVNC.

7. Director of Operations and Grooming Report (Mike DeJong)

- Mike advised his transition into this new Director Role was pretty seamless because Rick Weiss made it so easy.
- He confirmed the 2021-2022 proved to be challenging with massive amounts of snow at the beginning of the season which was difficult to pack to make it good quality for nordic skiing.
- Mike recognized the following individuals; Dave Fuller and Steve Lalancette for constantly keeping an eye on the weather forecast, advising which equipment to use and how much/little. Paid groomer, Mark Feldberg who showed up every day this season and volunteer, Dave Smith who put up posts, ran machines and did some painting.
- There were a lot of Moose this past season; they enjoy the packed trail which made it challenging as more often than not, they'd be sleeping in the middle of the trail. As the season went on, the team groomed some habitat for the Moose and they enjoyed that. The grooming team will be sure to do more of this next season.
- Overall, the 2021-2022 nordic skiing was good, Mike really enjoys the work and appreciates all the great feedback he's received about the quality of grooming.
- Megan added that the grooming team does a lot of work during the summer months which contributes to great winter skiing.

8. Director of Membership and Newsletter Report (Micheline Picard)

- Micheline has been involved with the FNS since 2011. Originally her daughter was Director of Membership and she had 3 grandchildren involved in the SDP. She would help out as a den parent and bring hot chocolate for the kids.
- She then became Director of Membership in 2018; however, is now stepping away from this role leaving it to a younger, more energetic person.
- Micheline originally initiated the Ambassador Program and Mellow Mountain Rangers (50+) program which carries into the off-season (summer months) as well.
- 2021-2022 was a great membership year. However, 2020-2021 the FNS reached a record of number of 1600 members. In an attempt to keep these members, she started the club's monthly newsletter along with the help of a subcommittee.
- Special mention and thank you to Cathy, Jennifer Gross, Jennifer Metivier, Kathy Mullen, Anie Hepher and Pauline who helped in many different capacities with all things membership. Danielle, Madi, Jan, Helmut, Louison, Aurelie and Mel who all helped contribute to the monthly newsletter. Susan Partridge, our publisher, for producing the high quality newsletter that is finally distributed to all our membership.
- Micheline recognized and thanked all of our sponsors including the Guides Hut, Freshies, Mugshots and Snow Valley Lodging. She noted to the AGM attendees that if anyone/business would like to be involved as a sponsor with the FNS to let her know.
- She advised that all monthly newsletters are printed and kept in the warming hut at the EVNC and that she will remain involved with this area (newsletter).

9. Director of Race Team and Programming Report (Johnny Shaw)

- Johnny thanked everyone who helps to make the 'Race Team' possible, doing many different things behind the scenes.
- He thanked Jeff and Naomi for coaching and behind the scenes work; Helen who isn't a team manager;) but keeps everyone on track. Special note that no one missed a start at

any of the races thanks to Helen. Dave and Penelope for taking care of the race team waxing and all the supportive parents and kids involved in the team.

- Johnny confirmed the race team consists of athletes between the ages of 9 and 17, all various skill levels; some raced over 20 races this past season.
- The team had athletes complete in all of the Kootenay Cups including the BC cup, Alberta Cup, Canada Cup and Nationals.
- Going forward Johnny is passionate about prioritizing long term development of our athletes for life. He hopes to foster life long skills, creating a team atmosphere and encouraging our older athletes to mentor our younger athletes. He'd like to see all ages and skill levels train together more often as the dynamic is really special.

10. Director at Large Report (Daniel Principalli)

- This is Daniel's first year with the FNS Board of Directors.
- He supports wherever necessary.
- Daniel contributed to the recruitment and hiring of our new Administrator.
- He looks forward to next season and assisting the FNS where needed.

11. Chair Report (Megan Lohmann)

- Megan recognized Madi who transitioned out of the Administrator role half way through the past season.
- She reported 300 new members. There was a huge influx of members during the pandemic; however, to continuously add new members is remarkable.
- Megan acknowledged the partnership with the golf course. Grooming improved with a new snowmobile. It's a shorter season but it provides an opportunity for co-benefits in being able to manage the land.
- She reported that the FNS is engaging with Columbia Basin Trust for additional funding to support our new lodge and grooming shop project.
- The SDP supported 61 skiers with 15 volunteer coaches. Tarah led an amazing adult lesson season.
- Megan reported to the AGM attendees that a lot of time has been allotted to keeping aware and apprised of the Galloway Land issue; sometimes as much as 20 hours a week. She assured the attendees that we are very much on top of the situation. As of May there is no application with the Regional District of East Kootenay (RDEK); it looks like we will see an entirely new application in the near future.
- She expressed the FNS is always striving to maintain connectivity of our nordic trails and balancing partnerships.
- Megan advised that the FNS is taking steps that are as fiscally responsible as possible when it comes to the new lodge and grooming shop design. There is an incredible group of individuals involved and we ask the membership to trust us.
- She expressed her privilege to continue her role as Chair to support the future of the FNS.
- Massive thank you to the Board of Directors.
- Acknowledging Marty from The Cedars and the relationship with the land.
- Megan commented on the concern around land management and how the FNS is not supporting 75 covenants as proposed.

12. Adult Program Report (Tarah)

- Tarah reported she taught over 70 lessons to over 60 people.
- There was a masters program during the 2021-2022 season.
- Challenging conditions including little snow initially followed by massive amounts of snow; pouring rain and then freezing which created the need to cancel and reschedule many lessons.
- She hopes to have an additional Adult coach for the 2022-2023 season.
- Tarah thanked Matthieu and the groomers; everyone who took lessons.
- She'd like to survey the membership and general public to get a sense as to what people are looking for regarding programs and specific lesson times etc.

13. Programming for 2022-2023 Season Report (Johnny)

- Johnny advised that our Administrator will be a program coordinator.
- The FNS would like to see more structure around programs from Bunnies to Masters.
- Possibility expanding the SDP to include an additional lesson day.
- Possibility adding an optional lesson day for Track Attack to explore the Race Team.
- Possibility adding a Wednesday night lesson supporting high intensity for Masters and the Older Race Team athletes.
- The FNS is looking for more volunteer coaches. Johnny mentioned one doesn't need to be an expert skier to coach.
- Coaches collaborating and training will begin in September.
- He encouraged our membership to come to the FNS's Board of Directors with any new ideas; we continuously do whatever we can to support our programming and athletes.

14. Budget for 2022-2023 Season Report (Matthieu)

- Revenue largely comes from our Membership.
- The FNS saw 1337 members this past season; Matthieu choose a conservative number (1250) to base the 2022-2023 budget on.
- \$152,000 is the total income; the rest is based off that.
- Known expenses include snow cat maintenance; the FNS expects overall less maintenance on other equipment throughout next season.
- \$16,000 received from The Resort Municipality Initiative (RMI) and The City of Fernie (CoF). Some of this amount was used to keep one parking lot and park toilets open during the season for community use; this cost approx. \$10,000 leaving the FNS with a \$6,000 surplus.
- *Motion* to approve the 2022-2023 budget 1st by Dave Smith, 2nd by Madi Bragg; no further discussion from the floor.

15. Annual Membership Dues

- Previous Year's Membership
 - \$110/Adult
 - \$240/Family (up to 4. \$19 per additional child - insurance fee)
 - \$55/Student
 - \$70/Senior (65+)
 - \$20/Senior (80+)
 - \$370/Corporate (up to 6 people)
 - Day Pass \$15/\$25 Family
 - Bunnyrabbit \$60
 - Jackrabbit \$70
 - Track Attack \$75
 - \$50 ski rental, \$25 per additional set of skate skis
 - Race Team A \$500
 - Race Team B \$440
- Recommendation
 - *Motion* to keep membership fees the same moving into the 2022-2023 season; however, as we move forward, fees will be increased to reflect land and facilities improvements 1st by Mary Miller, 2nd by Micheline Picard; no further discussions from the floor.

16. Events, Goals and Objectives for the 2022-2023 Season

- Ongoing formalization of committees to support Board level leadership with the hopes of getting stronger every year.

- Continued partnerships with The Fernie Trails Alliance (FTA), Tourism Fernie, CoF and the RDEK for facility and parking management during the winter. We are currently in the process of filling this gap and strengthening these relationships.
- Continuing to monitor and engage on land use discussion, emphasizing the opportunity for continuous access for nordic skiing.
- Continue to advocate for continued land access and connectivity.
- Currently engaged with Island Lake; starting conversations on support and discussions around Sunday and Monday motorized traffic.
- Continuing to improve our stewardship of the land.
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17. Motion to Adjourn: *Motion* to adjourn the AGM at 5:20 p.m. 1st by Matthieu, 2nd by Mike Bragg.