

American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation
Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting
June 27, 2011

Members present: Tom Duffy, John Kotar, Dennis Kruse, John Leighton, Don Maher, Dave, Nelson, Paul Pedersen, Sue Scheer, Joe Timmerman. Also present: Ned Zuelsdorff, Shellie Milford.

Meeting called to order by John Leighton, President, at 4 p.m.

Minutes of May, 2011, meeting. Tom Duffy made a motion to approve the May minutes as presented. Paul Pedersen seconded. Motion to approve minutes passed.

Approval of Agenda. Don Becker requested that the question of Board members paying for race entries be revisited and added to the beginning of the meeting. Paul Pedersen asked to add a request for Team meeting to agenda. Agenda was approved as modified.

Board payment of entry fees. Don Becker made a motion to strike the motion made and passed by the Board at the May, 2011, meeting to waive entry fees for board members registering for all Birkie events, and reinstate the motion passed in April to require Board members to pay entry fees. Dennis Kruse seconded the motion. After discussion, Don re-stated the motion to state Board members do not receive free entries to Birkie events. Dennis Kruse agreed to the amended motion. Motion passed 6 votes for and 5 votes against.

Team meeting. Paul Pedersen requested that a Team meeting be scheduled for Thursday, July 14th, at the Library at 7:30 a.m. Request was agreed to by general consensus.

Skier Development. Scott Chapin indicated that the Skier Development Committee requests \$15,000 for the 2011/12 fiscal year. The same procedure will be followed. Information will be distributed in the Birkie e-zine, on skinnyski.com and through the broadcast email process.

2011-2012 Budget Items. Joe Timmerman indicated that the projected budget for 2011/12 lists income of \$1,235,000. Eighty percent of the income is from registration fees, 11% from sponsorship, 9% other income including trail fees, trail donations, memberships. Ned indicated that, in addition to sponsor fees, there are about \$88,000 in in-kind contributions. The 2011/12 projected expense is \$1,249,000. Fifty percent of the expenses are for race operations, 15% for trail, 21% for administration and office expenses, 13% for promotions and sponsors, 3% goes for skier development and CXC. The proposed budget is about \$13,000 in the red. Joe Timmerman made a motion to adopt the budget. Dennis Kruse seconded the motion. Sue Scheer requested an increase in the amount given to full time employees as an insurance donation to \$6,000 from \$3,000. Sue indicated that insurance premiums had increased about 150% since the \$3,000 figure was established. Discussion followed. It was decided that Scott Chapin would research employer sponsored insurance plans and submit to Ned for consideration. The recommendation was to approve an amount of \$24,000 for insurance benefits, submit information to Ned and decide on best resolution at the next meeting.

John Leighton indicated that there had been discussion regarding elite skier transportation. Joe indicated that the amount of \$15,000 is included in budget. Don Becker asked about the CXC Adaptive program. Ned indicated that \$25,000 was included in the budget line for a CXC donation similar to last year. The \$10,000 give to CXC last year for the adaptive program was included. No request for funding has been received from CXC at this time.

Dennis Kruse commented that in Norway, a Worldloppet Master Skier award was given to a sit-skier who had completed 10 Worldloppet races. Discussion took place regarding offering more benefits to skiers. Ned indicated that we would be giving skiers a 2012 Finisher piece of merchandise at the finish, more food at the food stations and finish lines, more GU on the course. Joe indicated that the skier bibs and bags costs increased more than usual. Discussion took place regarding donations to offset expenses for the Worldloppet Breakfast so that participants would not have to pay or offer a gift to attendees. Don Becker suggested that this discussion take place at the WL Breakfast Committee level.

Don Becker made a motion to add \$15,000 to the budget for support of the MS Video project proposal which was distributed to Board members. After discussion it was decided that the Board would wait for plans to become more solidified and then make a more informed decision. Don withdrew the motion

John Leighton asked if we are upgrading what we do for volunteers. Johnson Bank contributes to the large volunteer party held on the day after the Birkie. Ned indicated that Food stations are each given \$250 to spend on their volunteers any way they choose. It was agreed that volunteer recognition is extremely important especially because the volunteer base is aging.

Budget as proposed was approved.

Questions for the Executive Director.

Joe Timmerman asked what the chances are of the American Birkebeiner sharing the Worldloppet Marathon Cup with Finland. Dennis Kruse indicated that the president of the Finnish race is on board with this idea. Dennis said that the elite athletes and the Worldloppet Annual General Meeting indicated that they want to include overseas races and skate races in the Marathon Cup mix. Tom Duffy commented that the problem he feels is not enough foreign elite level skiers come to the Birkie and the cost of \$25,000 is a high price for inclusion in the FIS Marathon Cup. He indicated that it is more important to get FIS points for those members participating. Dennis Kruse said that skiers are indicating they would prefer fewer points races.

Ned talked about the Triple Event organized by CXC. He hopes to discuss this with Yuriy later this week.

Personnel Committee.

Discussion took place regarding the ABSF Board of Directors Powers and Duties Draft proposal. Don Becker recommended and the Board agreed to a change in the third to last paragraph. The sentence reading "The ABSF Board of Directors shall make final hiring

decisions” was eliminated. Sue Scheer made a motion and Joe Timmerman seconded the motion to approve the amended ABSF Board of Directors Power and Duties. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Joe Timmerman asked about the executive director’s job description. This will be developed and presented at the September Board meeting.

Other Business.

Dave Nelson commented that there is still work to be done regarding the issues of the start area. All options are being explored.

The next Board meeting will take place on September 19th at which time the Board will elect the officers.

On July 9th, CXC will be helping with the Seeley Fine Arts Festival Run. There will be additional events that weekend including a roller ski event in Cable.

Meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Submitted by Shellie Milford and Ned Zuelsdorff

