

Minutes
Kimberley Nature Park Society Board Meeting
January 27, 2022

Zoom meeting called to order at 7:02pm by President Naomi Humenny

Present: Naomi Humenny, Rand Davis, Frank O'Grady, Laura Duncan, Susanne Baldwin, Cliff Erven, Sandra Roberts, Liz Royer, Ryan McKenzie, Gary Hicks, Ingrid Musser Okholm, and Heather van der Hoop

Regrets: Matt Thompson, Mitch Tom, John Henly, Dave Hale

1. Introductions and confirm agenda

Motion to approve: carried

2. Minutes of last meeting

Motion to approve: carried

3. Delegations: none

4. Correspondence/Communications:

- Audrey Duval with Shred Sisters requests a letter of support for their 2022 schedule of coaching, and also requests the donated money go straight to KTS for their trail work fund, as KNPS did last year.
 - 65 participants in 2021
 - 2022 schedule runs April through September
 - Motion to approve: carried
- Letter of support for Sinister Sports to hold Black Spur Ultra (August 20-21, 2022)
 - \$2,000 donation to split between KNPS, KNC, KTS, and Kootenay Freewheelers
 - Naomi will remind the organizers to please make sure to remove all reflective trail markers after the race
 - Motion to approve: carried

5. Financial report: Ingrid reported that we received \$770 in donations in December, and the only expenditure was \$20.99 to renew the website. Total assets as of Dec. 31 were \$28,324.

6. Unfinished Business:

- Update on communications plan: Matt couldn't attend this meeting but will work with the communications committee to create a plan and report to the Board in February

7. Committee Reports:

Trail Guide: Susanne reported collecting money from Togs, Purcell Outdoors, and Tourism Kimberley, and has \$300 to deliver to Ingrid. She has replenished their stock and will also be delivering new guides to the Timber Hitch. We are running low on trail guides, so it's time to discuss reprinting.

- Ingrid will look up how much it cost to reprint last time, so we have an idea of what it will cost to print enough to last the year.
- Laura suggested a grant opportunity with a rolling deadline that could help fund a small amount. The Board will discuss this grant via email once we know how much a reprint may

cost.

- A committee will be convened to update the trail guide in late 2022.

Membership: Gary reported 1 new member. Currently we have 289 members, 232 of whom are life members, and 161 email subscribers.

Natural History: Laura reported on committee activities.

- In the fall, the group held two walks exploring different aspects of the Natural History of the Park, then decided to postpone further outings until Omicron settles down.
- In Spring 2021, members were invited to choose a Special Spot in the park that they would visit several times during the year. A few people took up the challenge and noted visitations by birds and animals, as well as changes through the season. One person was able to identify two plant species new to the Park. Although winter has paused the project, the hope is to start again in the spring.
- The group is starting to plan a Photo Scavenger Hunt, which could become a seasonal event.
- Laura plans to write a short blog post for World Wetlands Day (Feb. 1). She will send it to Heather (for the blog) and Liz (for Facebook).
- The NH group is hoping to set up four wildlife cameras at different locations in the Park. They request partial funds from the Board (\$925) and are applying to Teck for the remainder (\$1,386).
 - Goal: to understand what kinds of wildlife are using the Park and where they are, particularly smaller animals and those active at night, since much less is known about them.
 - The group plans to choose locations without much human traffic, likely spots near water and well-used game trails, where animal sign and evidence of browsing are present, and where the cameras will be secure.
 - Discussion
 - Are there people to manage it? 10 people on subcommittee will manage this project
 - Someone will have to check the cameras' SD cards manually, but they don't anticipate checking very often to minimize disturbance
 - They will start by taking photos, but the cameras have video capability if needed
 - The group will choose locations away from trails so they don't capture images of humans
 - The Province says there are no privacy concerns because the locations will not include any marked trails
 - Motion to approve: carried

Trails: Ryan McKenzie updated the Board.

- Winter grooming: Conditions were difficult with the temperature swings through December and January, including lots of potholes in the warmer weather. Volunteers have been trying to encourage snowshoeing and avoiding trails when people are potholing. Most comments from people out on the trails have been positive, though some negative messages have come through social media. About 6-10 volunteers take turns doing snow dog grooming in Forest

Crowne/KNP

- KTS is planning to buy another snow dog for additional winter grooming, so there can be one in KNP and one in Lois Creek.
- Apache rename project: KTS asked the Ktunaxa Nation for advice to help rename Apache and name the Matthew Creek Connector. They have now connected with ?aqam, who will meet in February and will hopefully share some suggestions
- Electrify the Mountains: Archaeological report has been provided for the full project, and there's nothing of concern in the Nature Park
- Access points: Conversation about the potential to replace entrypoint gates with something more inviting and accessible. The Board supports the idea of coming up with a new concept and potential costs.
- KTS is getting a Columbia Basin Trust grant to fund a small trail crew, who will spread time across all different trail areas, including the Nature Park. Any ideas of maintenance projects can be sent to Ryan to help with planning. The trail crew usually works in May, June, and some of July.
- Trail nights for volunteers: These are also good options for trail projects, and they run two or three times a month
- Action item for trail committee: meet ASAP to come up with any summer projects for 2022 and share with Ryan

Blog: no new posts

Horse Barn Valley: Weather has made it tough to do fire interface work, but some cutting and piling has been done. Contractors may not be able to complete work, especially burning, by mid-March. Contract has provision to allow the extension past then, but may need to consider a break during the breeding bird timing window.

Interface Fire/Pine Beetle/Restoration: see HBV update

Events: nothing to report

Grant Writing: nothing to report

8. New Business: discussion regarding different committees and members willing to take part

- Conservation and Education
- Park Promotion and Events
- Trails and Structures
- Administration
- Horse Barn Valley

Action item: Board members should all read the full list, suggest potential edits, and volunteer for one or more committees for 2022 via email.

9. Interesting Sightings: Many sightings of a moose at the bottom of Apache and around Elbow. On the downside, the natural history committee has noted a lack of birds this winter.

10. Next Meeting: February 24, 2022

Meeting adjourned at 8:01pm.