

Minutes
Kimberley Nature Park Society Board Meeting
Feb. 18, 2021

Zoom meeting called to order at 7:03pm by President Naomi Humenny.

Present: Naomi Humenny, Ilona Hale, Dave Hale, Sandra Roberts, Laura Duncan, Kent Goodwin, Ryan McKenzie, Mitch Tom, Liz Royer, John Henly, Gary Hicks, Matt Thompson, Susanne Baldwin, Heather van der Hoop, Frank O'Grady

Regrets: Brad Carrier, Ingrid Musser, Rand Davis

1. Introductions and confirm agenda

Motion to approve: carried

2. Minutes of last meeting

Motion to approve: carried

3. Delegations: none

4. Correspondence/Communications

-Aaron with Transrockies/Singletrack 6 is requesting approvals for updated MOU with likely dates of Sept. 9-10, 2021.

John noted that the MOU mentioned collaboration with KNPS to select alternate routes if needed, but did not include details about how/who/when. Naomi explained that if there was a reason to re-route the race due to weather, KNPS would work with Aaron and Ryan to create a new route, which would come before the board.

Motion to approve: carried

5. Financial report: Ingrid Musser was not in attendance and will report on the financials at the next meeting.

6. Unfinished Business

-Trail signage upgrade project: John will check in with the person who made previous KNP signage about teaching him to make new signs, and will report back for next meeting. John is happy to lead this project. Gary will help install them. Mitch's inventory of KNP signs may have changed due to the ongoing logging/fire treatment work.

Action item: John, Mitch, and Gary will connect offline and will bring plans for moving forward to the next meeting

-Nature hikes for summer/fall 2021: There is some interest in hosting these hikes, but much depends on updated restrictions on gatherings.

Action item: Discuss at next meeting, when we hopefully will have a better idea of future rules around gatherings.

-Discussion regarding society communications with the membership: Matt updated the board on a small group discussion about how to better communicate with membership, given available resources (time, volunteer capacity, budget). The group suggested that a communication plan would be key, including ways to know when we are successful. Laura described the importance of regular email communication to update members about what's going on in the Nature Park. Liz is interested in helping and suggested making a schedule for an email newsletter. Heather suggested she could post the minutes directly to the website instead of having them go through an intermediary, and John

suggested the board should review them first (in addition to the president).

Action item: Heather will follow a new process of sending minutes to the board for review (~48 hours), then publishing them on the website for the membership and public to view. Naomi will connect with Brad and Heather to give Heather website credentials.

7. Committee Reports

Trail Guide: Susanne has collected \$490 from 98 sales of guides. Home Hardware, Tourism Kimberley, Purcell Outdoors, and Togs & Toys are selling the most. Bootleg Bikes and Black Dog Cycle & Ski haven't requested restocking yet. Susanne has a good number left to restock retailers as needed. Kent will check whether he has another box or two of guides to pass on to Susanne.

Action item: Susanne will ask the Campground to carry the guides, as well as a location in Marysville—Timber Hitch was suggested.

Membership: Gary reported that KNPS has 321 members, 225 of whom are lifetime members. He also noted that some annual memberships may have been renewed, but he has been unable to check the mailbox. Gary would also like to hand off this role; any director who wants to take it on should contact Naomi.

Action item: Gary will check with Ingrid to see if she has the mailbox key.

Natural History: Laura reported that it's been a fairly inactive year due to Covid and restrictions, but they have started reconnecting with people who are interested in natural history. The first project is a contest about who can spot the first flower, hear the first songbird, etc. Laura would love to include a blurb in a membership email encouraging people to join the natural history group. The group is also updating the checklists of species that exist in the park to include more recent discoveries.

Trails: Ryan discussed how the trails have looked in recent months. Winter conditions have been good. The recent storm debris was cleaned up fairly quickly — a few hundred trees were cleared very quickly by KNPS and KTS volunteers. A few fallen trees remain in farther reaches of the park, but those may need to wait until spring.

Winter grooming loop: The snowdog-groomed loop has been very popular, with no complaints so far. The grooming crew generally waited for a day or two after big snowfalls to let people snowshoe. The route is slightly different this year, and Ryan would like to review the route formally at the end of the season to make any adjustments for next year.

Trail committee for upcoming season: A few additional directors joined

The Great Trail reroute: The Great Trail (formerly the Trans Canada Trail) arrives in KNP via the Matthew Creek Connector into Mr. Toad. We need to determine and suggest the route we'd like The Great Trail to take through the park. KTS suggested picking the most sustainable and direct route. The Great Trail will give KNPS a number of signs to mark this route, which KNPS will install. We will need to wait until the Matthew Creek Connector and the logging project are complete.

Action item: The trail committee will discuss and pick a route, then bring it to the board for approval.

Blog: Naomi described two posts since our last meeting:

-October 2020: logging in the park

-January 2021: new trail closure for the logging project

The blog will be part of the communications discussions, including how often and what to post.

Horse Barn Valley: John explained that he sent the annual report to Lisa, and there are several pieces of news:

- HBV's interpretive forest status has been renewed for another 10 years. KNPS's stewardship of the HBV includes \$2M liability insurance

- Fuel treatment: The province is planning to do more fuel treatment in the HBV, but it's not quite clear where, so John has asked for more info.
- Boardwalk for Talus Trail: The board needs to decide if we'll do this in the spring to protect the wet spot; may be part of the trail committee's work.
- Operations plan: John will prepare this and send to the board; once approved, he will send it to the province.

Events:

- Shred Sisters requested and was granted a letter of recommendation for the 2021 women's mountain bike program.
- Round the Mountain: race to be cancelled for 2021, too much uncertainty
- Black Spur: No update

Grant Writing: Kent will write grants, but we need to come up with a project to fund first. The boardwalk on Talus Trail would count, as would sign replacements. Committees will need to scope the projects and create budgets so Kent can write grants. Naomi requested that board members think about project ideas so KNPS can apply for funding.

Interface Fire/Pine Beetle/Restoration: Kent reported on a variety of projects.

- The City of Kimberley is involved in three hand treatment projects: Myrtle Mountain, Pat Morrow/Romantic Ridge/Lower Army, and Duck Pond. The City also applied and got funding to do two prescribed burns: one in Spring 2021 (most of the Nordic area, including hillside above Army Road from Boulder to Higgins Hill), and one in Spring 2022 (south side of Myrtle Mountain). The Province has changed the rules about what the City can get funding for; the treatment areas eligible for funding must be within 2km of houses. That means the City won't be able to get funding to treat the areas Canfor is currently logging.
- Canfor update: This major logging operation is running 24 hours a day. They were aiming to finish work this winter, but depending on temperatures, may need to postpone some work until winter 2021-2022.
 - Canfor has committed to fixing any damage to trails, rehabilitating landings and skid roads, getting rid of slash piles (by either pulping or burning), and reseeding with a mix of grasses and clovers.
 - A small group of committee members visited the treatment area. The difference is jarring, but it looks a lot like a fire-maintained open forest, so Kent is optimistic for the finished product.
 - Canfor says the province has asked them not to reclaim the roads yet because the province says it wants to do more treatment in the area.
- FLNRO has assigned a forest tech to design a plan to continue the work in HBV and KNP, so they want the Canfor roads left as-is for now in case they want to bring in equipment. This makes sense, as long as they'll rehabilitate the roads once they're done. It's currently unclear whether this work will be mechanical or hand treatments, and there should be a consultation in late March. Kent let them know that KNPS doesn't agree that mechanized logging is appropriate everywhere, and looks forward to consultation. We should have a map of proposed areas in April. Work would be done in winters 2021-2022 and 2022-2023.
- Kent will write a blog post to update members once we get a few more photos and a little further into the process. Sandra suggested the importance of explaining the ecological upside. The blog post will be sent out to members.

8. New Business:

-Chris Ferguson has resigned as Vice-President.

Motion to accept resignation: carried

Action item: email Naomi to volunteer for the role or nominate someone else

-City Council protects elk habitat in city limits: Sandra thinks there's a tiny corner within the KNP, but there are no trails through the area. Musser's Plateau is nearby, but not through the area.

-Fat bikes during Flannel Fest: The organizers wanted to put on an event in KNP and asked Ryan, who said KNPS needed to approve any actual events. Instead, a group of people went fat biking around the park on the same day, but there was no organized event: no equipment set up, set start time, etc. Funds raised will support snow dog operation (fuel, maintenance costs, etc.).

9. Interesting Sightings:

Laura saw a moose on Feb. 18 in Forest Crowne trails, between Elbow Road and Apache.

10. Next Meeting: 7pm, March 18, 2021 via Zoom

Naomi will look into getting a pro Zoom account for KNPS, and we will return to our every-third-Thursday schedule.

Meeting adjourned at 8:24pm.