

Minutes
Kimberley Nature Park Society
Monthly Meeting February 27, 2020

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

Present: Naomi Humenny, Chris Ferguson, John Henly, Ryan McKenzie, Ingrid Musser, Dave Hale, Patrick Humenny, Matt Thompson, Frank O'Grady, Cliff Erven, Peter McConnachie, Gary Hicks, Mitch Tom, Heather van der Hoop, Susanne Baldwin, Brad Carrier, Kayla Wilson

Regrets: Laura Duncan, Liz Royer

1. Introductions and confirm agenda

Motion to approve: carried

2. Minutes of last meeting

Motion to approve: carried

3. Delegations

None

4. Correspondence/Communications

-EKISC upcoming AGM: Wednesday April 8, 9-noon

Naomi asked whether any board members were interested in attending. Gary Hicks is interested.

5. Financial report

Ingrid reported that we earned 85 cents in interest and didn't spend any money. We have \$23,275 in the bank (some funds are delegated already).

Motion to approve: carried

Chris moved to roll the trail guide funds and archive funds into the unrestricted account.

Motion to approve: carried

6. Unfinished Business

Signage for Sunflower Hill ungulate wintering area

Many people liked sign #3, and then there was a discussion about the merits of signage. Brad suggested that the reminder to keep dogs under control is redundant because it's already on signs and is part of the bylaws. Frank proposed putting signs up at the start of winter and removing them in spring. General discussion about concerns about over-signing the park, so original six locations for signs were narrowed down to three, to be posted at

- The Forest Crowne trail entrance to the park at Sunflower Hill
- Jimmy Russell Road parking lot
- Campground entrance parking lot

Signs are 16 inches by 9 inches and will cost \$19 each. Gary suggested buying 4 so we have an extra in case of damage.

Motion to order 4 of sign #3 using fund from the general budget: carried

7. Committee Reports

Trail Guide: no update

Membership: Gary reported no changes. We have 313 members, including 215 lifetime members. Renewal notices went out at the start of January so numbers may dip next month.

Natural History: update from Laura Duncan (presented by Naomi)

-Feb 8 outing at Sunflower Hill: the group looked for patterns to photograph/sketch, and the results are detailed in a post on the blog.

-Next outing: March 10 at dusk, looking for owls on Sunflower Hill. Call Laura or Ruth to join

-Spring focus will likely be on ferns, especially a new evergreen fern not noticed before

Trails: update from Ryan McKenzie

- Snow dog is out of commission (need to replace piece for clutch)
- Reminder of KTS subgroup on Facebook for winter trail conditions
- Considering signage for next year to show which side to walk/ski on so people don't walk on ski tracks (generic signs that can be used in all trail areas)
- Outlined projects for trail crews (2,500-2,700 hours of work). In 2019, trail crew worked ~1,900 hours, 1,400 of which were volunteer hours
- Looking for key projects in KNP (major maintenance or new builds)
- John asked about rerouting of Shapeshifter, but nothing is finalized yet

Chris mentioned the trails upgrade committee and asked whether anyone else wants to join. A meeting will be held in March to suggest any updates and decide on priorities for the summer, and much of the conversation happens over email. Patrick, Mitch, Naomi, and Brad volunteered.

Action item: Chris will send an email to the new volunteers

Blog:

-Feb. 19: Seeing Patterns in Nature

Horse Barn Valley: John submitted the annual report to the board in early January. Now he's preparing the operations plan and would welcome any ideas to include. He notes that they'll need to track the number of volunteers as well as volunteer hours.

-HBV interpretive forest status expires Jan. 17, 2021; will need to reapply. Status lasts for 10 years. John will review with Lisa Cox to see whether reapplying requires any actual work/new volunteers.

Grant Writing:

- Kent is happy to work on grants for specific projects identified. Naomi asks that the board consider whether there are any projects that will require grant proposals.
- Kayla suggested that Kent asked her to study the amount of cheatgrass on Sunflower Hill. She looked at it in the fall, will see what it looks like in the spring, and may look at a BC Hydro grant.
- Brad suggested that a few McKim teachers have mentioned that they'd like to take their classes out there to help.
- Sandra noted that many grant deadlines are in the near future, and maybe it's a better idea to look at available funding and then think up projects that might line up well, especially since generally deadlines are quite a bit earlier than the actual delivery of funds. Chris suggested that most of these details may be in Kent's brain, so Chris will work with him to get the information down on paper.
- John pointed out that with many new board members, there may be new project ideas

Events:

Naomi suggested needing a leader for nature walk scheduling for spring/summer/fall. She'll ask Suzanne McAllister if she's still interested, and Rand said he could work with her. Naomi also had an email from another local who wants to get involved.

Interface Fire/Pine Beetle/Restoration:

-Chris is still waiting for an updated map from CanFor. Foresters are currently flagging in the park, and Kent/Chris suggested posting on Facebook to let people know what's happening. Gary will turn the same post into an email to members.

-On Feb. 28, several board members will walk around the area under discussion with the forester

8. New Business

- General discussion of Kimberley's many trail-related groups with different mandates, and the challenges of satisfying our mandate as well as a wide range of park users.
- Matt suggested that a communications strategy can help shape perception, and perhaps people don't know the history/"why" of the Nature Park
- Kayla asked whether McKim students could become members, as members don't need to be adults. Chris suggested that KNPS used to have corporate memberships, and McKim had one -- could this come back? Sandra suggested perhaps having individual membership cards for students
- No final decisions, but good general conversation

9. Interesting Sightings

None

10. Next Meeting – April 2, 2020, 7:00pm McKim School

Note: This is a week later than usual to accommodate the school closure over spring break