

**Kimberley Nature Park Society
Monthly Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 23, 2023
Room 137, McKim**

Present: John Henly (via Zoom), Laura Duncan, Jean Terlesky, Naomi Humenny, Gary Hicks, Dave Hale, Frank O'Grady, Mitch Tom, Heather van der Hoop, Ryan McKenzie, and Laura McKenzie

Regrets: Jenn McConnachie, Graeme Donaldson, Kevin O'Neill, Ingrid Musser Okholm

Meeting called to order by President John Henly at 7:02 pm

1. Adopt the minutes of the last meeting

- Naomi moved, Frank seconded
- Motion carried

2. Accept the agenda

- John added that he heard from Jenn regarding an environmental assessment and wanted to add a discussion of a KNPS board retreat to the agenda
- Dave moved, Gary seconded
- Motion carried

3. Delegations

- Status of city liaison: John has emailed the mayor multiple times about appointing a new liaison, with no decision yet. The mayor wants to get to know the new council before appointing. Laura will follow up with the mayor via phone to see if that gets a better response than email.

4. Correspondence and communications

- Ride Theory: Jean reviewed the confusion around the Ride Theory application for tenure. She and Laura met with Christine Ma, owner of Ride Theory, to find out what she was looking for, which was two 5-day bike camps for kids. She was advised to apply for approval to conduct camps in multiple locations (Lois Creek, KNP, Cranbrook Community Forest, etc.). The City received her application but didn't notify KNPS. Ride Theory has applied for tenure through Lands BC, which is conditionally approved pending a letter of support from KNPS. Tenure is granted for 5 years, though they must ask for a letter of support annually. It's a small company with ~20 participants in each camp with a 1:6 student to instructor ratio, and the founder's values align with KNPS's, so Jean recommended that KNPS issue a letter of support.
 - Jean moved that we write a letter of support based on current explanation of their business plan and numbers; Naomi seconded
 - Motion carried
 - **Action item:** John will draft a letter and send it to Ride Theory

- Shred Sisters letter of support for 2023 season: John sent the letter a couple of weeks ago. He also asked them about the volume of the schedule and amount of use, including how it has changed over the past few years. Usually ~10 people in a group. John wants to meet with Audrey (owner) and group leaders to introduce KNPS and its values, ensure trail etiquette is part of the classes, and make sure everyone's on the same page. Discussion followed about the Shred Sisters schedule and Jean noted that if a business's management plan has substantially changed from what it was when they applied originally, they may need to go through a re-application. No changes for now.
- KTS has tabled the TCT grant for KNPS investigation and analysis: John reported that Jenn and Kevin contacted VAST, who are interested in doing some pro bono work to support KNPS. John would also like to get EKISC involved. The goal will be to take a look at the trail section once the snow melts and we can better determine the scope of the work and potential concerns.
- Horse Barn Valley: John reported that he heard from Lisa Cox regarding donating materials to fix a wet spot along Talus Trail. Finances had constrained previous attempts to get materials, but it sounds like they have funding now and are eager to move this project forward. John also reminded Lisa of a previous discussion to improve access to the climbing area from Tora Bora to support MOU with EK Climbing Association; waiting for more info.

5. Financial report

- John read Ingrid's report: we had \$491 in revenue, including donations, map sales, and membership fees, and no expenditures, so we have \$31,160 in assets.
- Some discussion about internally restricted funds and whether they could be moved to unrestricted; will wait for next meeting so Ingrid can clarify any ramifications of moving funds.
- Motion to approve the financial report, pending changes to dates: Gary moved, Laura seconded
 - Motion carried

6. Unfinished business

- Trail Guide update project: Frank reported that organization and planning resulted in a budget and application for a CBT ReDi grant by Feb. 15. Budget is \$10,800 (\$4,000 in design, \$5,300 trail maps, \$1,500 for 5 aluminum maps), and they applied for the CBT ReDi grant for half. Next step is approval from the city, so Frank/John have to present to the city council in April. City reviews all applications and decides how much money to recommend awarding, passing recs to RDEK, which contacts winners. Previous editions were printed by Rocky Mountain Printers but we will consider several options. Other next steps: design plan, printing plan, but we can't start until we receive the grant.
- Winter signs: Mitch reported that 14 signs are done and ready to go. Mitch, Laura and Lyle will collaborate to put them out at strategic locations on doubletrack on main loops and closer to town (Army Road, Duck Pond, near Swan Ave entrance).

- City Liaison: still not appointed. Laura D. will phone the mayor to inquire about timing.

7. New business

- 2023 Committees
 - **Events:** TBD (Chair)
 - **Community Engagement:** Graeme Donaldson (Chair)
 - **Planning & Grants:** Gary Hicks (Chair)
 - **Trails & Structures:** Mitch Tom (Chair)
 - **Natural History:** Laura Duncan mentioned a discussion from a Community Engagement meeting about changing this committee's name back to Conservation & Education, though wondered if it would be confusing to have two "CE" committees. Several directors suggested that the committee should discuss internally and consider whether they're interested in changing their name.
 - Motion to accept committees as outlined: Gary moved, Laura seconded
 - Motion carried
- Zoom: John and Jim Duncan will look into KNPS Zoom account settings
- KNPS Board Retreat: John suggested that the board could schedule a retreat to review the Management Plan, brainstorm plans and priorities, and get to know one another better. More discussion tabled for next meeting.
- Since McKim works well for meetings, Naomi will return the keys to the Kimberley Community Church.

8. Committee Reports: Goals for 2023

- Events
 - Laura D. reported that there hasn't been much activity, but the Natural History committee met to brainstorm hikes and events, though not much is scheduled yet. Events committee will meet again to plan a schedule for the spring.
- Community Engagement: Gary reported on the meeting in lieu of Graeme
 - The committee needs to appoint someone to manage the KNPS Facebook page—Laura McKenzie volunteered to take this on
 - Conversation about sharing "bite-sized" pieces of Management Plan to begin discussion in preparation for updating it in coming years; advertise events and new trail guide once finished
 - Some conversation about contacting people on our email list who aren't members to find out why they're interested in the park and if they might become members. Discussion of membership fees and whether they should be raised from current rates, though feelings were mixed and no decisions were made.
- Planning & Grants: Gary reported that the committee worked together to write the ReDi grant application for funds to support the trail guide. John suggested the committee could come up with more opportunities to be better prepared for future

grant opportunities—Ryan may be a great resource to help. Gary will make a list of potential projects that could qualify for future grants.

- Trails & Structures: Mitch reported that the committee met and set goals for 2023:
 - become more familiar with management plan
 - plan and host volunteer trail work parties (monthly during summer/fall)
 - develop trail priority list for repairs, maintenance, reroutes.
 - Mitch also reviewed the current status of trail signage in the park, including what needs refurbishing/repair, and Kevin is interested in helping with that project. Past trail signmaker is retired, so we'll need a new maker.
 - Laura M. noted that the committee is using Slack to communicate, which they've found helpful in terms of keeping conversations separate from email.
- Natural History: Laura reported the committee met to modify goals and objectives for 2023. Priorities include recruiting volunteers, broadening outreach to community, encouraging more involvement by young people, developing a "pop-up" table that could be moved to different entrances to welcome people to the park (info, maps, encourage membership), and monitoring flora/fauna to understand climate change and human impact.
- Interface Fire Mitigation: Dave wondered whether the \$5,000 in Interface Fire funds in the KNPS account was to get another consultant's opinion on fuel management, so that could be an option to pursue. WISA area is still slated for hand treatment (\$400,000 for 50 hectares) but no updates on timing/plan.
 - **Action item:** Dave will email Bob Gray to find out if there are any updates on WISA habitat plan
 - Ryan noted that KNC has requested a review of the plan for the area near the biathlon area to ensure accuracy
- Horse Barn Valley: John noted that we need to submit HBV plan in April, but it's mainly the same as previous years

9. Kimberley Trails Society Report: Ryan reported that the snow dog grooming is going well.

- Fat Bike Poker Ride: part of Flannel Fest, staged out of Swan Ave entrance. The event is not a race, but will be a busy day.
- Electrify the Mountains signage was ordered, though there's not much in KNP. Hertz So Good will get signs. Safety signage will be installed on Sidecut to note that it's downhill traffic only now. Wayfinding signage will be ordered soon that will display trail name, grade, and usage allowed (foot, bike, e-bikes of various classes).
- Work on TrickleDown is planned to avoid user conflicts and steep section falling off and trail erosion
- Global plan for trail maintenance and erosion fixes will be developed with ready-to-go projects so we're ready to apply for grants when they're available. This work will mainly be done with the Trails & Structures committee.

10. Interesting Sightings: Foxes, coyotes, martens sighted, with potential wolf tracks on Sunflower Hill. Mitch heard a woodpecker on Eimer's.

Motion to Adjourn: Laura moved, Jean seconded, motion carried

Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm

Next Meeting: 7pm, April 6, 2023 at McKim (a week later than usual to accommodate spring break)