

MINUTES
ABSF Board of Directors Meeting
June 20, 2017
3:00 PM ABSF Office

Board Members present: Paul Eckerline, Dennis Kruse, Joe Timmerman, Jan Guenther, John Garrett, Jeff Tumbleson, Yuriy Gusev, Mike Mandli, Tom Duffy, Brett Rondeau, Sue Scheer, John Kotar
Board Members Digitally Present: Charlie Dee, Yuriy Gusev
Staff Present: Ben Popp

Call to order, 3:00 PM

Approval of Agenda with New Business moved to follow Director's Report. Duffy moved, Mandli second. **Approved**

Approval of Minutes from May 16, 2017 Board Meeting (Retreat): Duffy moved, Mandli second. **Approved**

President's Comments: Paul Eckerline

Executive Director's contract will be voted on today as Budget Amendment.

New Business

Telemark Feasibility Study: Brett Rondeau

HK Hospitality has met with Brett during the past three and half years working on a plan to purchase and revive Telemark as a new corporation, Mt. Telemark Development Properties.

They requested through Brett that the ABSF pay for an

independent feasibility study.

Board will request through Brett that the company's principles meet with ABSF Board.

Executive Director's Report: Ben Popp

- Numbers of registrants: LWC run: 31, Trail run – 411, Birkie Tour- 21, Birkie – 3300.
- Ten candidates for four board vacancies have applied.
- Bayfield County will host all the county foresters in the state this Thursday, and the ABSF will present to them about using county lands for recreation.
- We've applied for a number of grants: 1. Snowmaking, up to \$1 million, to US Department of Commerce for Economic Development . Will know in 6 months. 2. DNR \$250,000 in cooperation with Sawyer County for Nordic Center at OO. 4. Community Development Investment Grant with Wisconsin through the Northwestern Regional Planning Commission for \$25,000. 5. Huelsmann Foundation for building Nordic Center at OO.
- Vote to follow attorney's recommendation on matter. Mandli moved, Tumbleson second. **Approved.**

Committee Reports:

Finance: Joe Timmerman

2017-2018 ABSF Budget

Timmerman made the following motions:

1. Mandli second. Approve the 2017/2018 budget as presented at the May 2017 ABSF board meeting. This budget is labeled: 11.17_v5.0. **Approved Unanimously**

2. Mandli second. Amend the 2017/2018 budget to reflect an increase in salary of \$3,000 to Ben Popp. This amendment will increase the Administrative Expense Payroll by \$3,334.73 to cover wages and fringes.

Approved Unanimously

3. Kotar second. Amend the 2017/2018 budget to reflect keeping Allen Serrano on staff for three more months. This amendment will increase the Event Operations Expense Payroll by \$17,913.00 reflecting wages and fringes. **Approved Unanimously**

4. Kotar second. Amend the 2016/2017 budget to reflect a \$5,000 payable to Ben Popp for his past performance. This amendment will increase the Administrative Expense Payroll by \$5,557.89 to cover wages and fringes. **Approved Unanimously**

(See amended budget as Attachment 1)

Trail: Mike Mandli

- The Birkie can make snow this year. We have the resources to do a small operation with two snow guns which would have people ski on manmade snow this season. However, the area would be quite small, non-expandable, and not in the long-term interest of the Birkie.
- The other option is to do a larger long term system that would be expandable. The plan for a larger, expandable infrastructure system would require more funding, but would be more helpful to the long range goals of creating a permanent recreation and competition venue and saving the overall ski race in low snow years.

- The choice of Birkie venues for snowmaking are multiple, but the choices are trending toward the start area in Cable. As an example, Ben passed out a start line schematic done by Jeff Tumbleson. The schematic included an example of the pipe line, pump house, and the placement of snowmaking equipment.
- Pre season and over the summer snow storage is something we need to consider seriously, and it would not be very costly.
- Popp passed out a summary. We may at some point have multiple snow making areas. He favors a fundraising strategy in place before making snow. Al Serrano does not think we can have Thanksgiving snow without storing it from previous winter.
- Economic development grant is being written to the federal government that requires grant to be made before starting a project. This is another reason to delay implementation until we have a thorough plan for the location, the equipment, and the fundraising.
- The Board agreed to announce the long-range plan for snowmaking at the ABSF annual meeting with the goal of implementation in November and December of 2018.
- The Trail Committee will meet on July 17, to formalize the plan and presentation to the membership and public.

Documentation: Charlie Dee

Deadline for applications for Board vacancies is 45 days prior to Annual Meeting.

Skier Development: Jan Guenther

No report

Competition: Dennis Kruse

- Changes in FIS Marathon Cup:
 - Birkie will be an FIS race next year.
 - FIS has eliminated the final race, the Ugra in Russia.
 - Next year, the series starts in China, where they have huge facility and will treat folks well.
 - Costs to race organizers have been cut to make it easier for smaller races to participate.
 - A PR agency has been hired to do all TV.
Ski Classic has so many more resources than FIS does.
- World Loppet Cup is going downhill. Very few competitors did all three races last year.

Adjournment: Duffy moved, **Approved** by acclimation.

ATTACHMENT 1

ABSF 17 – 18 Operations Budget