

Monday, June 29, 2020

# **Kanata Nordic Ski Club Annual General Meeting**

## **Zoom Video Conference**

**Attendance:** David Bentley, Andy Weekes (minutes), Heather Boswell, John Clarke, Michael Solonyanko, Maureen Smith, Nigel Wallis, Marlene Alt, Anne Wilson, Harris Kirby, Andy McAllister, Marsha Kelly, Jonathan, Ralph Quapp, Liz Inkila (XSCO), Rich Russell, Sunida Hurst, Councillor Theresa Kavanagh, Kirsten Andreassen, Celine Desormeaux (NCC), Rob Galdins, Roger Colbeck, Jean-Jo Bellamy, H Andreassen-Yurack, Eugene Vigneron, Cathy Gloade, Richard Batty, Joanne Murray, Christine Butler

### **1. President's Welcome**

David welcomed everyone to the Kanata Nordic AGM 2020 including our community partners participating in the meeting. Although this would normally occur in person, it was deemed safer via Zoom due to COVID-19 and he was appreciative of everyone attending.

### **2. Adoption of Agenda**

***Motion to approve agenda made by Heather Boswell and seconded by John Clarke. Approved by consensus. No new business.***

Following adoption of the agenda, Councillor Kavanagh made a few comments and also welcomed everyone attending. She is very excited about the trails and programs offered at KN and indicated that this fills a niche in the west end. She also spoke about her “dream” of being able to connect with the new trail at Britannia and ultimately linking trails throughout the City.

### **3. Review of AGM minutes from April 8, 2019**

***Motion made to approve minutes from last year made by Nigel Wallis and seconded by Heather Boswell. Approved by consensus.***

#### **4. Annual Reports**

Reports to follow. Questions will be taken upon completion.

#### **5. President Report (David Bentley)**

Looking back on the this past season, the ski swap was very successful. Snow arrived late but was good when it did come. Extremes of weather were avoided. The Pretzel race went well and was well attended. We sold 760 day pass vouchers on-line. There were line ups for ski and snowshoe rentals on Family Day. Ski social nights (x2) were very popular

Looking forward, there may be a virtual ski swap. Social distancing will be important and it is clear that COVID-19 will have a number consequences. Individual sports are selling out of gear. This may mean more members for KN. We are hoping to increase the visibility of KN even more with continued grooming of multi-use trails (Watts Creek).

KN is a founding member of the Urban Winter Trails Alliance of the National Capital Region (incorporated last month). Mission: to be a single voice for all multi-use winter pathways in the city to approach both the NCC and the City for funding. Trails must be free to use (Trans Canada Trail for KN). Other founding members include: SJAM, Ski Heritage East, Britannia Winter Trial, Orleans Ski Club, Ride Winter Trail. Marlene Alt is our current representative on the Alliance.

#### **6. Treasurer Report (Marsha Kelly)**

Marsha noted that the fiscal year was changed to April 1 - March 31. This makes it easier to present at the AGM.

Statement of financial position was presented. The Club has 84K in cash and 73K in equipment. Membership revenue 32K. Programs 33K. Trail user fees 13.4K. Grants/

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sponsorships 13.6K. Rental revenue 3.7K. Other special events 11.4K. Total revenue 107K. Expenses 87K. It was noted that the largest expense was for coaching and education at 27.1K. The Pretzel Race made a small net profit. Income/expenses were further broken down into general membership 59K (-39.3K), Programs 33K (-35.5K), Special Events 11.3K (-10.5K), OCF Rental Shop 3.7K (-1.3K). There was a larger than expected net profit for the past season and Marsha provided several reasons for this. Specifics regarding major equipment assets were presented.

A question was asked about grants and sponsors with details provided.

A question was asked about expense specifics which was broken down in detail.

***Motion to accept Treasurer Report made by John Clarke and seconded by Rich Russell. Motion approved by consensus.***

### ***7. Membership Coordinator Report (Sunida Hurst)***

The Club offers programs for young children, youth, adults and racers. Day and seasonal passes can be purchased. 720 members in total for 2019-20. 136 family, 51 couples, 75 individual. 87 paid a fee in lieu of volunteering. 184 are returning members. It was noted that once an individual joins, there is a high retention year over year. A visual map was presented to demonstrate where the KN membership resides within in the City.

### **8. Trails Coordinator Report (Eugene Vigneron)**

The trails department had a successful season for 2019-20.

There were no significant closures. Grooming happened ~ 4x/week. High school time trials occurred. We had planned to hold the Chelsea Masters Race, but this was canceled due to poor weather. KN offers a snowshoe loop. The entirety of the Watts Creek Pathway was groomed as a trail this past season with very positive feedback.

Gene gave a big thank you to all of the trail volunteers for their many hours of time.

The Club purchased a new 2019 BRP Outlander XT1000 which was customized.

Thank you to Rich Russell for all of his help with the equipment.

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Future goals include grooming despite COVID-19 and continued Watts Creek Trail grooming.

Please let Gene know if any interest in joining the trails crew.

## **9. Facilities Coordinator Report (John Clarke)**

On the plus side... New trailhead location and larger cabin at 401. New signage to protect skiers at 401 and direct skiers at 411. Off-site storage for rental and some program materials. Lots of non-members using the trails and chalet. Equipment rental was a success.

On the negative side... WCP started charging additional \$\$ for plowing and sanding (\$5500/year). Large permanent chalet at 401 investigated but deemed too expensive. Cleanup was slower with fewer people due to COVID-19. Safety issues were raised related to the Magic of Lights (hopefully changes will come next year).

Marlene Alt spoke about the rental shop which worked very well. Equipment has been purchased. It is run by combination of paid and volunteer staff and brought in a small profit. It also served as an information centre for lessons and membership.

## **10. Jackrabbit Coordinator Report (Maureen Smith)**

Good conditions for kids programs and overall a successful season. Programs were offered on both Saturday and some on Sunday. Saturday: full BR, JR, DynaRabbits with 11 classes in total. Sunday: BR and JR1 with 3 classes in total. Sunday did not have a "club ambassador/cabin keeper" and it was felt that this would be of benefit to the program.

Leader orientation happened in December. A meet and greet was hosted with students, parents and leaders. Skills development clinic lead by Mike Viera. As always, fun day went very well. Hopefully there can be 2 fun days next year to include Sunday. Parking (led by Dan Mackay) and hot chocolate (led by by Kristine Breton) also went well.

A number of positive comments were received about The Club having a "family feeling".

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Maureen will be stepping down. A huge thank you for all of her dedication and hard work!

### **11. Racing Coordinator Report (Heather McCulligh, presented by David Bentley)**

Mike Viera is in his 2nd year of coaching The Club racers. 28 fall/winter athletes, 12 summer, 3 in the new “enhanced” program. Biathlon sub-group of 8. Ages 9-17, balanced across training groups. 1 head coach, 4 assistants, 6 parent helpers. Pretzel Race record attendance at 201 participants. Lots of fun and hard work!

Over 15 races attended this season. Travel across Ontario and Quebec. Numerous KN teens qualified for OFSSA. Multiple podium finishes at various events including OFSAA, Ontario Winter Games, Ontario Youth Champs, Gatineau Loppet.

### **12. Youth Coordinator Report (Heather Boswell)**

Adventure Rabbits was offered for 2019-20 for youth 9-13 who had competed JR3. Season started in October. Not as much interest as hoped was demonstrated in learning new techniques and it will not be offered next season.

Teen skate, non-competitive. Season started in October with hikes. Teen Skate 1 following JR4. 15 students. Saturday morning at WCP, 1 class cancelled due to weather, 1 class in Gatineau Park. Teen Skate 2, intermediate/advanced, 3 students, Sunday morning at WCP or Gatineau Park, 1 class cancelled due to weather, 5 Gatineau Park ski trips (4 during regular season, 1 post-season).

Looking forward, there is a broad span in skills for TS1. The plan for next season is to restructure the TS Programs into 3 levels to include a 3rd level. TS1/2 will run Saturday morning with TS3 (advanced) running on Sunday morning. 6 students have advanced to TS3 and have also been recommended to the racing program.

### **13. Masters Coordinator Report (Michael Solonyanko)**

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Programs: 10 classic, 5 week classic, 10 week skate, 5 week skate, All season adult touring. Both classic programs were full. 10 week classic retained all students. All others had normal attrition.

Suggestions for future: Divide programs along skills rather than program length eg. Classic beginners, classic intermediate, Skate beginners and skate intermediate.

#### **14. Accept all reports as presented or amended**

***Motion to accept all remaining reports. Approved by consensus.***

#### **15. Election of 2020-21 Executive**

President: David Bentley

Vice President: Nigel Wallis

Treasurer: Marsha Kelly

Secretary: Andrew Weekes

Membership Coordinator: Sunida Hurst

Events Coordinator: Joanne Murray

Jackrabbit Coordinator: *Vacant*

Trails Coordinator: Eugene Vigneron

Promotions Coordinator: *Vacant*

Racing Coordinator: Heather McCulligh

Teen Skate Coordinator: Heather Boswell

Masters Coordinator: Michael Solonyenko

Volunteer Coordinator: *Vacant*

Facilities Coordinator: John Clarke

***Motion to approve Executive for 2020-21. Approved by consensus.***

## **16. COVID-19 and Effects on Membership and Programs**

Formats may be different but we are hoping to be fully open and offering programs. Guidelines put forth by The Government of Ontario will be followed. This will impact the chalet and sharing of equipment as well as social distancing.

Cross Country Ontario describes the “Coaching Zone” which is a maximum group size of 10 (2 leaders and 8 participants). Athletes outside of the “Coaching Zone” must also follow provincial guidelines regarding physical distancing. All of this information is available on the XSCO website.

Questions raised as a result of COVID-19: Will there be any access to the cabins or washrooms? Do warnings need to be posted? What events can be hosted?

Programs may need to be run over more of the weekend eg. Saturday and Sunday am/pm to allow for distancing. More coaches may be needed. We may need to focus on older classes. It was noted that both sites can be used.

What is clear is that guidelines and rules will be constantly changing for the foreseeable and that KN will need to adapt as per these recommendations.

## **17. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned @ 9:02 pm.

Thank you to all who attended.