

MINUTES OF THE FRIENDS OF LAPHAM PEAK SNOWMAKING COMMITTEE

February 14th, 2017

Members present:

Kris Maki, Anne Riendl, Mary Ellen Bruesh, Joanne Ziarek, Rick Bjodstrup, Charlie Ritter, Joe Stuber, John McCarthy, Jim Bostrom, Rich Marusinec

Items discussed:

Welcome: We welcomed Jim Bostrom and Rich Marusinec to the committee; introductions were shared by all.

Photo: Anne showed a photo of the 3K marker for Paul Sandgren on the Birkie Trail...hope all participants will see it during the race.

Survey: Kris sent out the preference survey to all donors and received 35 responses in 3 days. We also have 14 Survey Monkey results to add to ours. We will share the results over the coming months as more come in.

WE Energies: Rich Marusinec said that we cannot get a discount for being a non-profit from WE Energies, but we might be able to get a donation from Brian Manthey. Joe Stuber said that we should make snow OFF peak times such as nights and weekends....of course, if weather cooperates. WE Energies sent a letter stating that we may need a new meter.

Paul Decker contacted Cindy Duchow and Chris Kapenga re: our project and received favorable comments. Charlie learned that Aurora Hospital gave \$10,000 to the Noquemenon as a "life health benefit". The Korteloppet received \$12,000 from a JEM grant [WI State Joint Effort Marketing]. There is 1 million dollars in the fund and 57 JEM projects were funded last year. We need a pitch for our project that promotes a healthy active lifestyle. Joanne called it an "outdoor treadmill".

Grants: Kris sent Joe and Charlie the text from the SC Johnson grant applications that were denied for two years due to us being out of their area. She emphasized XC skiing as a healthy lifelong activity. Kris learned that the NFL gave the city of Minneapolis \$52,000 for the Super Bowl in 2018 to ensure that their outdoor activities are funded...Wirth Park is there and many skiers utilize the manmade snow there.

Donation Tube: Charlie would like to improve onsite donations...we need more attention to our tube outside Evergreen. Mary Ellen suggested we put a sign up with the question on the pole "How Much does it cost for you to ski here today?" Skiers might be encouraged to donate?

*Jay told Kris on Feb 20th that he found dog waste in the tube and Sarah has found dirty diapers. We need to discuss.

Party March 18th: Kris sent out an invite and was encouraged to send an invite to the ski league.

Slush Rush Mar 4th: Cancelled as our request to hold it on ski trails was rejected: State statute

Brett Johanen comments in absentia: Brett sent an email to answer several questions:

Snowgun demo: The Standard PoleCat makes more snow in the same amount of time. He would like to purchase at least one Standard and one more Kid PoleCat.

Brett asked SMI to give him a quote on the "used" demo Standard PoleCat that we used on the playground February 8th. The new cost is about \$22,500 each.

Daily Records: Notes have been taken and will be organized and then shared with the committee. Sarah in the office has made a “Daily Snowmaking Log Sheet” that the DNR will use next year.

Equipment Records: They created a “Snowgun Inspection Form” to document each Snowgun’s status (i.e. repairs, condition, etc) at the end of the season and into next. The DNR will create a “Snowmaking System inspection Form” also to include the pump, hydrants, etc. The above items will be labelled to aid in record keeping.

SnowCat Status: The tiller has been temporarily repaired. The committee would like to ask Miller Bradford for a contract to maintain the Snowcat. Brett said the main problem now is the repair needed to the left drive track. The committee prefers a professional assessment of what is needed rather than the park staff trying a temporary fix. Brett said the SnowCat ran very well this year, but he cannot emphasize enough the need for a reliable machine.

Volunteer Program (snowmaking and grooming): Brett said that it is important that we continue growing this program for a variety of reasons, but it must be mentioned again that the current intent of any volunteer effort is to “**only assist and supplement Property Staff with these activities**” when the Property Manager deems necessary. There is no plan at this time to have any individual work and/or operate alone and at no time shall they work without Department Staff approval and supervision. It is important that these boundaries are respected in order for the program to continue. Several committee members wished that a schedule could be made for grooming. However, Kris pointed out that this year was ultra unusual....At almost no time was the entire trail system groomed and park staff were on hand to groom the manmade loops sometimes hourly during the temperature swings that turned mashed potatoes into ice to keep the ski trail as safe as possible. Mother Nature did not adhere to any schedule, though she was quite warm and rainy on Mondays and Tuesdays and seemed to relent and give us cooler temps for the Wednesday Night Series. The experience of the DNR staff was very important in knowing when and how to groom this year.

MOU/Expansion plans: No updates at this time for the Friends agreement and our needed Memorandum of Understanding so that we may expand our system....but Brett believes updates may occur when the Department Alignment is completed supposedly by January 2018.

Snowcat Storage: Brett will explore at the next meeting

Trail Expansion: Brett will explore another option at the next meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Kris Maki

Next meeting February 28, March 14th and 28th