

Minutes of the Snowmaking Committee of the Friends of Lapham Peak
Hausmann Nature Center
December 19, 2017
6:10-8:10 PM

Present: Rick Bjodstrup, Anne Riendl, Charlie Ritter, Rich Marusinec, John McCarthy, Joanne Ziarek, Jim Bostrom, Joe Stuber, Cole Roecker.

Next Meetings Reminder: January 16, 30; February 6, 27; March 13, 27. Location is Hausmann Nature Center and the time is 6:00 to 7:45PM. (Lights and heat have been requested for these dates)

Minutes of December 12 approved with corrections.

Introductions: All members present introduced themselves and welcomed new committee member Cole Roecker. Cole has been a member of Peak Nordic since third grade and is now a serious racer and a junior in high school. He will be an important liaison to the Peak Nordic community.

Use of Volunteer Crew for snowmaking and grooming: Rich M. presented a spread sheet documenting running time for snow guns and snow cat, working and training hours for volunteers, amount of water used, area of trails covered, and daily readings to monitor the refill rate of the pond. Rich will create a summary of information in a few weeks once the entire loop is completed. As of Dec 19 we have approximately 65 to 70% of the snow made and should be done by 12/30.

ROA: Everyone was encouraged to complete ROA survey for Lower Lake Michigan Coastal Region.

E-Mail Holiday Greeting and Invitation to Observe Snow Guns in Action: This will be a snowmaking update using initial wording proposed by Rich M and incorporating suggestions from the committee. It will include an invitation to see snowmaking guns in action from 4-6PM on Dec 26 and again on Dec 28 with snowmaking volunteers providing explanations. The plan is to send it to donors, Peak Nordic, Friends of Lapham Peak, Wed night racers, Nordic Ski Club of Milwaukee, and Lapham Peak Ski Club.

Miller Bradford Invoice: Joe S. has not received an update from Kyle and noted that there are still some outstanding bills to come.

Snowcat: Joe S. reported that they have repaired the alternator and that the wiper blade motor needs to be repaired or replaced. Joe and Rich discovered significant damage to the wiring from mice and taped all the damaged wires that they could access. The radiator leak will need to be repaired later but for now it is being topped off with coolant as needed.

Penguin Pal Campaign: Charlie R. reported income to date of \$570 from 19 people with donations ranging from \$30-\$100. Currently DNR staff are not amenable to passing out Penguin Pal information at the window during slow times. Flyers are available on the counter in the office. Clarification of DNR staff role is needed from Anne Korman and Anne R. will contact her. Other ways to distribute the flyers were discussed. Discussion about sponsorships for large wooden penguins on the trails resulted in consensus that for this inaugural year a minimum of \$250 would be required. With only a little over two months left for this skiing season it was also decided that any donor giving a substantial amount would have their sponsorship sign in place for next ski season as well. Charlie will have laminated signs printed to recognize the donors for the wooden penguins on the trails and placed following DNR rules for signage.

Ornaments: John Hallett and Charlie R. have communicated and the remaining 2017 ornaments and some from past years will be placed on the tree in the office to be sold for \$20 each with money going to snowmaking. There is some question about how many ornaments there are—either 18 or 36.

Holiday Card Mailed to Donors: Cards were assembled at the Dec 12 meeting. Charlie R. mailed 227 and Anne R. mailed 177 on Dec 13. Charlie is collecting the money from the office weekly. He will send out a thank you letter and tax receipt for all donations and will make a Penguin Pal sticker available to those who donate at least \$30.

FLP-DNR Agreement: John M. reported that Janet Hutchens sent a response to the board and it will be discussed at their January board meeting.

Income Summary: Anne R. reviewed the master list for snowmaking income starting in 2006 and demonstrated the many ways the spread sheet could be used to obtain useful data.

Expenses: Rich M. showed the current expense information in pie chart format and will provide what is needed to John M. for the strategic plan. Rich is also working on a 2017/2018 budget based on prior year's expenses and should be ready to present it to the committee in March or April.

Possible Opening Day Event: Mention was made at the end of the meeting for future consideration of a skiing event on opening day to be used as a fund raiser kick off to the season. To be discussed at an appropriate time next year. This could occur in late December when the trail is fully snow covered or be held on the Jan 1st event which occurs each year.

Respectfully submitted by Joanne Ziarek

With suggestions by AMR & RMM