

Minutes of the Friends of Lapham Peak Snowmaking Committee
Hausmann Nature Center
November 19, 2019, 6:10 PM-7:45 PM

Present: Anne Riendl, John McCarthy, Joanne Ziarek, Rick Bjodstrup, Mike Graham, Will Edwards, Charlie Ritter, Chris Peske, Rich Marusinec, Mike Koester, and guest Mark Herr.

Next meetings: December 17, and January 21 at 6PM at Hausmann Nature Center.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of October 22 approved. Joanne Z. will notify Mary Ellen B. to distribute and post the minutes to the website. Minutes of June 25 open listening session need final consolidation of input from all present that evening before being presented for approval. John M. working on this.

Snowcat Building: John M. and Rich M. met with Jason Parmann, a builder and skier, who will get a quote for using a building kit with Smart Side vs metal siding and using volunteer labor for various elements of the construction under his direction. A proposal was received from CCS, the company that did the siding on Evergreen shelter. John M. checked into using a metal building kit from Menards. Anne R. is still awaiting proposals from Morton and from Hemenway Construction.

Grant Application: John M. has submitted a grant application to the DNR Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grant requesting \$20,000 toward the snowcat building expense.

“Out Wi Go”: This DNR-sponsored winter activity event will be held at Lapham Peak on January 11, 2020, from noon to 4PM. John M. met with Anne Korman and Kathleen Goerke from the DNR to discuss planned events. Proposed activities include: snow shoe rental for use on the ice age trail, a winter camp lounge, fat tire biking on the west side trails, sledding near Trecker if there is enough snow cover, ski lessons for adults plus kids games coordinated with the Lapham Peak Ski Club and Peak Nordic Ski Club, food and soup for sale at Trecker from the Friends. There will be a \$5 admission charge. Other possible vendors include UW Hoofers, Ice Age Trail Alliance, REI, and New Belgium Brewery. A request was made to Ben Popp to borrow some of the 25 ft. giant skis from the Birkie Foundation to have a giant ski event. They are available if transportation can be arranged using a trailer. The play ground will be prepared for planned events in that area. The event will also be promoted on FaceBook.

Snowmaking: Rich M. reported that early snow making was done continuously from November 11-13 due to favorable cold weather conditions and the desire to test out the system and equipment. Each snow gun was used for 55 hours. He reported that 16 volunteers put in 152 hours with Sam Edwards, Joel Lamers, & Paul Keber coordinating first shift, Mike Koester and Dan LaBlanc anchoring the second shift, and Jim Bostrom and John Hillmer covering the third shift. They used 900,000 gallons of water making about 25% of the total snow needed and produced more than 15 “whales” (large piles) of snow to preserve the snow during rainy, warmer weather. Anne R. and Rich M. met with DNR staff and the plan is to begin making the rest of the snow on December 2 depending on whether temps are cold enough. Beattle A. returns on November 25 and will be testing the snowcat in preparation for spreading the “whales” when ready.

Training: Rich M. reported that there were 40 total volunteers on the snowmaking list with 10 attending his two training sessions for those new to snowmaking. He has prepared a list in SignUp.com and will send invitations to all of these volunteers. There will be slots for two people per shift; one experienced snow maker will be the shift coordinator and the newer volunteer will be the helper. Mike

K. and Anne R. will help with the sign up. There will also be a slot for DNR snow makers when they are scheduled to make snow; however, no helper will be needed with them.

Electricity Payment Change: The DNR will now be paying the electricity bill and then will notify the Friends how much to reimburse them for the snowmaking expense portion.

Snowcat Financing: Charlie R. and Will E. met with Ixonia Bank to discuss a possible donation to snowmaking as well as financing for a new snowcat.

Fund Raising/Publicity: Will E. & Charlie R. sent two separate mailings to the larger donors. They also plan to send an e-mail blast to everyone on the list provided by the Birkie in their "Pay it Forward" initiative. The current old snowcat will be parked at the trail head with a sign explaining the need for replacement. Charlie R. also noted that Chelsea Lewis may do a story for her outdoor segment in the Journal Sentinel. She hopes to see actual snowmaking and to ski on the man-made trail. Anne R. reported donations of \$18,000 have been received since September and showed the listing. A notice will be sent to those donors making larger donations when the snow is ready for skiing. Charlie R. & Will E. plan to meet with Joe Liebau, Secretary's Director for Southeast Wisconsin DNR. He is interested in learning more about our snowmaking system and would like to try out the man-made trail.

Delafield Tourism Commission: Charlie R. plans to attend the February meeting and make a request for \$10,000 in funding for snowmaking as it benefits the whole community in so many ways.

Donor Plaques: Mary Ellen Bruesch has completed posting the plaques in Evergreen shelter for the two largest categories of donors: the "Glacier" group, all of whom have contributed \$5,000 and up, as well as the "Avalanche" group who have donated \$10,000 and up over the years since 2005.

New Park Manager: Colton Kelly has been named the Lapham Peak park manager and will be starting November 24, 2019.

Trail Damage: John M. noted that some areas of 3b and 3c trails have ruts from vehicle traffic this fall. He requested volunteer help for 3PM on November 20 to repair the damage with the possibility that another date may be needed to finish the work.

Misc. Snowmaking Topics: John M. will follow up on an inquiry from veterans' groups interested in skiing at Lapham. There will again be signs on the trail for a minimum donation of \$350 to recognize sponsors. Mike K. suggested setting up a Venmo account to facilitate skier donations directly at the trailhead via cellphone. Charlie R. will check with Waukesha State Bank for details. A notice will be placed near the donation area with the pertinent information when this is in place.

Respectfully Submitted: Joanne Ziarek