



**Whitehorse Cross Country Ski Club  
Board of Directors Meeting**

Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024, 6 PM in the Canada Game Center Boardroom

**MINUTES**

**ATTENDEES**

**Board Members Present**

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Jan Downing, Vice President  
Leslie Gomm, Treasurer  
Sarah Aasman, Director  
Brian Terry, Director  
Lorrie Lech, Director  
Deb Higgins, Director

**Regrets**

Jean Paul Molgat, President  
Moya Painter, Secretary  
Tracee Vickerman, Director  
Chad Walasek, Director

**Club Management Present**

Ben Poudou, Club Manager  
Jan Polivka, Operations Manager

**Additional Attendees**

Teresa Earle- for presentation of survey results and discussion

**1. Call to Order**

Jan Downing called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.



## **2. Approval and Additions to Agenda**

Deb moved to approve the Agenda and all board members present were in favour. Carried.

## **3. Review and approval of the draft Minutes from January 18th, 2024**

Lorrie moved to approve the draft Minutes from January 18th, 2024. All in favour. Approved by consensus. Carried.

## **Updates**

### **4. Board Committee Updates**

#### **READI Committee (Jan Downing, Deb Higgins and Ben Poudou)**

Name Change Project - Email was sent to board with a summary of survey results prepared by Teresa. 150 people completed the survey, which is about 7% of the membership. Of these respondents, about 70% are supportive or neutral about the name change. Need to decide as a board how to move forward given the level of participation in the survey, range of items raised to be considered, and some strong opinions raised both for and against name change. The Board needs to make a decision and the options put forward are:

Option 1 - hold SGM and vote

Option 2 - hold an open house or meeting and get input from membership and vote later at the AGM

Option 3 - put the project on hold

Many comments/concerns were raised during the discussion including:

- ~90% of the membership did not participate, is this because they don't care either way?
- given the comments raised during the survey and limited participation it feels rushed to hold the SGM on March 6th with a vote
- concern that if we move forward it may alienate some long time members
- If we hold the vote, maybe more folks against it will show up and it will be a "no" vote . Does this mean the process stops or we continue and engage again and hold a vote later? Will delaying it result in it losing steam? If this is the case - better to have SGM in spring
- Option to change the name of the facility to Whitehorse Nordic Centre but operated by WCCSC, similar to Mt. Sima. This does not need a vote.

It was raised that consultation in this community is difficult. Right now the club has a lot of social capital and has grown tremendously over the last 10 years and it was cautioned against reacting to the input provided in the limited responses to the survey. The board has been elected to make these types of decisions. There have been a lot of thoughtful comments made by long-term members regarding the name change. This is already a very inclusive club - it is not a big change that is being proposed. Suggested the



wording of the message needs to be massaged as people are targeting specific words such as “nordic”. The inclusivity changes at the club are already in the works and independent of the name. This is a journey and we are managing this for a few number of people. The board has gone down a path, whether or not we vote, there will be people that want to share more than what a survey provides them. Surveys should be taken with a grain of salt. Surveys are just one mechanism and are not always the best way to engage people. These days people are inundated with all sorts of surveys. It is also hard to get folks out to a meeting as for many there are a lot of bigger issues out there.

Overall, everyone agreed that it is best to hold a meeting on March 6th to get input and allow people to be heard and hold a SGM with a vote later. This will help foster the sense of community that people have and want with the club. People are deeply invested and how do we go into a meeting to get the best out of it. Suggestion was made not to call it a meeting as this creates structure. Call it an Open House as it is an information session to provide an opportunity to listen and exchange ideas and thoughts.

Deb moved that an open house/information exchange be held on March 6th on the proposed name change and the supporting process This would then be followed up by a SGM and vote in late Spring. Approved by All.

### **Climate Change Committee (Leslie Gomm, Lorrie Lech, Sarah Aasman and Moya Painter)**

The committee met briefly and Moya has agreed to be the Chair with support from Leslie. The first step is to update the TOR for the committee. The team will work on this and meet once Moya is back in late March.

### **Human Resources Committee (Jean Paul Molgat, Tracee Vickerman and Leslie Gomm)**

Nothing to report.

### **Land Tenure Committee (Jean Paul Molgat, Jan Polivka and Brian Terry)**

The Licence of Occupation has been signed (30 years) and there is a separate land lease for the huts.

### **Major Competitions and Events Committee**

The Yukon Ski Marathon is on March 2. There will be a meeting after the event to debrief with those involved to discuss a path forward. The intent of the meeting is to discuss the goal of the various events. Who do we want to attract? What do we want those events to be? To help plan the future of these events and major events. Do we want to host major events - nationals? They are a lot of work for a club. Canadian Master’s events may be a better event - bring people up who stay a week and put money into the community and possibly stay do the Buckwheat. Eventually this task will help us pick the events that are the best for us and the territory.



## **Standing Items**

### **5. Financial Reporting**

**Leslie Gomm**

Leslie presented the financial report. Day passes are still a bit under budget but there is a big jump in sales during February. Clarification was provided to Board members as to the two budget columns: original budget and the recently modified and approved budget (January 2024).

### **6. Manager's Report**

**Ben Poudou**

Ben provided a written report in advance of the meeting.

Not many people know about the Opportunity passes, hopefully the word will get out and they will get used up over March break. Ben discussed staffing and is excited that it seems that Juliet wants to come back next year. Sarah is also considering coming back. Ben will work with her to get the appropriate paperwork done to support her visa. Having both these staff returning is a great benefit to Ben. They are both very organized and it frees up lots of time for Ben to focus on other things such as events and other bigger picture things.

Ben highlighted that the HR Committee needs to consider how to encourage staff to stay on longer term considering things such as year-round salary.

End of year volunteer party is in the works for sometime in April. This is a well needed event that has not happened at the club for many years.. The idea being considered is hosting it in the stadium with music and outside vendors providing food.

### **7. Operations Manager's Report**

**Jan Polivka**

Jan P. provided a written report in advance of the meeting.

### **8. President's Report**

**Jean Paul**

Jean Paul provided a written report prior to the meeting summarizing the recent meeting with the Government of Yukon Ministers meeting. The meeting was very successful. The ministers want us to lobby the City to move forward with the park designation and send a letter to this fact before the end of March. Jean Paul is also reaching out to Yukon Conservation Society regarding this issue.



## **Discussion and Decision Items**

### **9. COW Volunteer of the Year**

This year the nomination from WCCSC will be Fran Nyman. She has been actively involved with the club for many years including JDP coach, Adult instructor, and on the Nordic Festival Committee. Consensus. Carried.

### **10. Easy Like Sunday**

Board is scheduled to host the Easy Like Sunday on March 3rd, 12 to 3 pm. Need someone from the Board to organize a schedule for people to be there and what food to bring. Jan D. will send an email out to the Board to find out if there is anyone willing to take on the organization.

### **11. Feedback from B. Horton on JDP/CCY**

Jan D. met with Brain Horton about CCY engaging ski club programs for visiting Nordiq Canada development coaches. There was discussion on where Nordiq Canada is going and if JDP coaches can get there. Jen and Graham have been great in supporting the JDP. Jen is working to adapt training courses to align with our program needs. Jen is becoming certified up to Train-to-Train.

### **11. Board Member Resignation**

Chad notified Jean-Paul and Jan D. that he will be stepping down from the Board. He feels that as he will be traveling more than anticipated he can't be as involved as he had hoped to. When he can he will get involved.

**Next Meeting:** March 20th, 2024 at the CGC Boardroom