



**Whitehorse Cross Country Ski Club**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 7:00 p.m.  
Meeting held at the Yukon Ski Lodge

**MINUTES**

**ATTENDEES**

**Board Members Present**

Jean Paul Molgat, President  
Jan Downing, Vice President  
Leslie Gomm, Treasurer  
Moya Painter, Secretary  
Tracee Vickerman, Director  
Sarah Aasman, Director  
Deb Higgins, Director  
Lorrie Lech, Director  
Brian Terry, Director

**Regrets**

Chad Walasek, Director

**Club Management Present**

Ben Poudou, Club Manager  
Jan Polivka, Operations Manager

**1. Call to Order**

Jean-Paul called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm.

**2. Approval and Additions to Agenda**

Leslie moved to approve the Agenda with addition of extra time for the READI committee. All board members present were in favour. Carried.

### **3. Review and approval of the draft Minutes from November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

Section on moving money from FN bank to BMO: Should say - Moved by Jan Downing to transfer \$126,340.34 from FN Bank of Canada into the club's business builder account at BMO.

Tracee moved to approve the minutes and all board members present were in favour. Carried.

## **Updates**

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

#### **READI Committee (Jan Downing, Deb Higgins, Heather O-Mara and Ben Poudou)**

Enews - Draft of enews that will go out to announce change of name from WCCSC to Whitehorse Nordic Centre. There could be a special general meeting to move this motion or it could be done at the AGM in the fall. The constitution will need to be changed as well, could be adopted at a special general meeting along with the name change. Will need to change the bylaws at the same time to update the name.

Needs to be some word change in the enews to explain that this process is not completed yet, there will be engagement with the community prior to the name change. Enews should highlight change of "cross country ski" to "nordic" and "club" to "centre." May be worth having two names - including centre for the place and whitehorse nordic for the people.

There will need to be a meeting organized to let people voice their opinions on the name change. Could be the nordic festival, volunteer party at the end of the year, and then have resolution at AGM. Can we start to use logo/name before the special resolution? It would be nice to have the summer to implement the name change so it can be launched when the next season starts.

General support for the enews with the addition of "club" vs "centre" being highlighted some more, Proposed timing for special resolution will be sent by email after the READI committee discusses. Plan for media interest once enews goes out. Think of someone who isn't necessarily on the committee, maybe a long-time member could help. Could talk about the signs that already say Whitehorse Nordic Centre on the trails.

#### **Climate Change Committee (Jean Paul Molgat, Leslie Gomm)**

Nothing to report.

#### **Human Resources Committee (Jean Paul Molgat, Chad Walasek, Leslie Gomm)**

Nothing to report.

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

## **Major Competitions and Events Committee**

Jan and JP went to meeting with Dianne Billingsly about gaps when moving forward with major events (CCY and WCCSC):

- Capacity in terms of larger-scale planning of event, pretty good capacity for running the races
- Could use more officials trained in level 1
- Infrastructure - need more small things (better clock, horn, etc.)
- Reciprocity - being good members of the ski community at large. Sport governing bodies elsewhere in Canada run paranordic events, etc. Giving back to the wider ski community in Canada. What is our presence at other events outside of the Yukon? If we host an event here it could be a good opportunity for JDP athletes to participate.
- Make some of our own events invitational. Difficulty is that a lot of the Yukon races get postponed or canceled because of weather. One of the reasons Nationals is more appealing is because it is in March.

Plan of vision with CCY and WCCSC - in the next 3 years do we want to attract an event and if so what kind of event? Organize a meeting after xmas with CCY. Jean-Paul and someone else from the board will meet with CCY.

## **Cross Country Yukon Board Meeting**

Tracee and Deb attended the last meeting. Brought up CCY finding a way to pass significant emails up to affiliates, which was heard.

Tracee queried if there should be a risk management policy developed for all of CCY members in addition to the one CCY recently developed for squad only. CCY felt their risk management policy is very specific to the squad program and everyone else should have their own.

Deb raised the issue of rotating members not having as much say or understanding of what is going on. Jan D. mentioned it is good for all WCCSC board members to have an understanding of how the CCY board functions and commit to what we decided to do. It was decided to keep rotating membership until the end of this year.

Jean-Paul and Lorrie will attend the next CCY meeting on January 17th.

## **Standing Items**

### **5. Financial Reporting**

**Leslie Gomm**

Leslie presented the report.

1900 members, down from last year but still good. Almost at revenue with passes and programs in terms of budget. We are at 59% of the budgeted amount - missing day passes and grants.

Expenses - CCY and nordic canada almost at 100%. Nordic Canada increased the fee so that is above the budgeted amount. Everything else on expense end is a bit slower because season is slower.

Trying to modernize banking. Transitioning away from using the day to day banking account to the business building account. Day to day account charges fees for every transaction. With the new account we can use online banking and can accept etransfers for free. Opened a premium rates business savings account to move surplus into. More accessible than a GIC.

\$520,000 in bank right now in all accounts.

Need to look at capital asset plan to decide if we want to lock up money further with GIC. Need to write a procedure as these things change, and how much we want to keep for the day to day as a minimum.

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

**Ben Poudou**

Programs are going well. Still spots in the adult program - offer a deal to previous participants, which need to be promoted. Busy with rentals, programs, etc. All growing.

Events

- Nordic spring festival meeting
- There are two volunteers on the committee for Yukon Champs and Don Sumaniks
- Applying for art fund to get live music at the huts, DJs

Adding recognition for masters skiers in the club.

Need to reorganize staffing to account for growth? Poor employee retention means a lot of training every year, etc. Ben and Jan P. will make a plan and bring it to the HR committee for next year to look at the budget. Need to be conscious of burnout.

A few complaints about choosing to close the club an hour earlier. Main concern is the safety of young staff, and to align with the grooming schedule.

Received a letter about opening up more trails to skiers with dogs. Jean-Paul Wrote back with rationale but writer is not satisfied so he has been invited to talk to the board at the next meeting if desired.

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

**Jan Polivka**

Not much to update. Opening more trails as we are getting closer to a more normal amount of snow for this time of year.

Jan P. talked to Gary Bailey with KDFN because we need to upgrade the small groomer. He has one but cannot use it because trails are too small so trying to come to a decision to swap, or buy.

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

**Jean Paul**

Jean-Paul attended the first functional planning meeting around planning for the stadium and outbuildings. Goal was to download ideas on Tony so he can have a better idea of what needs are in terms of racing, snow making, adult programs, storage of equipment, etc. Will meet again a couple of times before a plan is solidified, and presentation will be made to the board prior to decision. Some big ideas came out such as straightening out Sumanik drive to give more room towards the dog parking lot.

## **Discussion and Decision Items**

### **9. Committee membership**

- Tracee will join HR committee
- Brian will join Land Tenure committee
- Sarah, Lorrie and Moya will join the Climate Change committee.
- Looking for a person on the major events committee

### **10. Logo presentation**

Notes taken by Jan D.:

- Hat/Toque - more suited to a daycare or kid centred program/facility
- Hut - this logo is timeless, and less of an extreme change from the present WCCSC logo, represented movement, cabins, trees, river and road to downtown
  - Add dimension to the black and white version by adding a ski track/trail
- snowflake - chicken feet, this image has been used in the Yukon (festivals, corporate), this logo can't stand alone without the YNC wording (likely could say the same for the hat).

Font and colors:

- the font (regular and caps together) wasn't appealing
- would like to see "Nordic" larger than "Whitehorse" (some disagreement on this)
- the black and white version of the hut needed some more dimension (the logo became flat represented by only 2 colors, would prefer a grey tone introduced here)
- Mixed opinions on making "Whitehorse" or "Nordic" larger font

### **11. Motion for zoning by-law input**

Mining stakes under almost all ski trails. Claims have been there since 2007 and there is an MOU with Jim Coyne which is now expired. MOU recognized the collaboration between the ski club and Coyne. Gladiator Metals is doing exploration work drilling in the quarry off the descent and down the sima road. They need a development permit from the city to do this work. Those activities do not affect the ski trails very much. Gladiator identified a class 1 area that overlaps

with the ski trails near mordor and the junction of copper and Shakuni. If they apply for a development permit they will need to apply to get a zoning change to get that area zoned for drilling (which provides a layer of protection for the ski trails).

Community associations are asking for support in pushing the City to amend the zoning bylaw to remove the mention of exploration and mining within the city limits. In Feb attend the public hearing and push for the creation of a park instead of giving our support to amending the zoning bylaws. Can amend the OCP at the same time as bylaw - change to parks and recreation instead of rural residential.

Motion for zoning bylaw change is pushed to the new year.

**Action item** - Fill out survey.

### **12. Motion to approve Terms of Reference for Land Tenure Committee**

Leslie moves to approve the terms of reference to the land tenure committee as presented prior to the meeting. All in favour. Carried.

### **13. Motion on unbudgeted expenditure - Tidy Tank**

Will facilitate more environmentally sound practices in refilling of equipment. Leslie makes a motion to approve the unbudgeted expense of \$3600 for the purchase of a tidy tank for storage and dispensing of gasoline. All in favour. Carried.

### **14. Major event meeting debrief**

See section 4.

### **15. CCY board meeting attendance**

See section 4.

### **16. Board meeting schedule**

Desire to fix all dates in advance. Can put on the website so anyone can come if desired. Will meet at 6 instead of 7 in the future.

The next board meeting will be on January 18th and after that every third Wednesday of each month.

**Adjournment:** The chair adjourned the meeting at 8:45 pm

**Next Meeting:** January 18th, 2024 at 6 pm (meeting location TBA)