

ISLAND TRAILS NETWORK

Minutes of Regular Meeting
11/01/07

Call to order: Whipple called meeting to order 12:14 PM 11/01/07 in the Chamber Conference Room.

Quorum: A quorum was established, with Whipple, Saltonstall, Harrington, and Foreman present.

Approval of Agenda: Harrington requested time to be allotted for discussion on her meeting with the E.D. of Trail Mix. It was added under Communications. Foreman moved to approve the agenda as amended. Saltonstall seconded. Carried 4-0.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Deferred until the next meeting.

Elections: Board members were reminded of the expiration of their commitments to ITN, and asked to consider continuing to serve for another 1, 2, or 3 years. All board members are requested to state their intentions by the December meeting. Elections will be formally held at the January meeting and will occur annually thereafter at the first meeting of the year.

Old Business:

Strategic Planning: Schroeder reported that former RTCA planner and Alaska Trails President Jack Mosby agreed to facilitate a one-day long-term planning workshop, the first step in the strategic planning process for ITN. Mosby agreed to three dates: Nov 10, Dec 1, or Dec 8th. The board unanimously chose Nov 10. Board members not present will be solicited for their input prior to confirming any date. Camp Mueller and the KFRC were suggested as possible venues. The venue will be decided once the date has been established.

Island Lake Trail: Schroeder gave background on the project (see 10/4/07 minutes). New developments include renewed interest from the North Star PTA and the Alaska DOT Safe Routes to Schools coordinator on establishing a trail connecting North Star with residential areas nearby. Schroeder suggested a Safe Routes trail may be pursued along or across the corridor of the existing Island Lake trail with any left over or additional funding. A map of potential trail extensions & re-routes was circulated to the board. The board agreed that a field trip of the trail and proposed extensions is in order. The ITN membership, as well as select members of the borough assembly with a vested interest in the trail will be invited to attend. The date of this field trip is to be determined.

Trails Summit: Whipple provided background on the project (see 10/4/07 minutes). Dates of 23-24 February were tentatively selected. Kodiak College, the Refuge Visitor Center, KFRC and Camp Mueller were all identified as possible venues. Harry and Brigid Dodge were identified as possible keynote speakers. Schroeder will check with Kevin Meyer and Lisa Holzapfel as to their availability that weekend, and will discuss possible volunteer training opportunities through Alaska Trails with Jack Mosby. Harrington moved to establish an ad-hoc Trail Summit committee, Foreman seconded. Passed 4-0.

Reports:

Treasurer's Report: Paper copy was circulated.

Executive Director's Report: Paper copy was circulated. I

Communications:

Juneau Trail Mix director George Schauff met with ITN board member Harrington in Juneau last week. Their operating costs are approximately \$60k, which they earn as administrative fees for their \$500k annual project budget. Schauff cited several funding mechanisms ITN should pursue, including Alaska Trails Initiative (ORTAB), Rasmuson Tier 1 grants, American Hiking Society start-up grants, TRACS federal transportation grants, local city/borough funding, IMBA Trail Care Crews. Trail Mix pays a full-time E.D., hires a seasonal Trail boss, and uses Greenjobs.com to hire hourly wage college students throughout the summer. Although they have in recent years contracted most of their trail projects, they are shifting their emphasis back to volunteer trail crews to continue building broad community support. They have an MOU with the local government to use their hand tools, and frequently rent or purchase trail-friendly mechanized equipment. They also use visiting crews from USCG cutters as a volunteer base, which we could do also. He recommended attending the professional trail builders association convention in Reno, NV. He recommended a "Kaia" formerly of Juneau and now of Kodiak as an experienced trail volunteer. Finally, he recommended we persuade Ben Millstein to brew a "Trail Beer" where proceeds could help ITN's cause. ITN is grateful to have Trail Mix as a role model organization!

Audience Comments: None.

Board Member Comments:

Erin Whipple: : Was contacted by Mike O'Conner of ONC. Ouzinkie is interested in designating the Anton Larsen Bay to Sharatin trail and making it sustainable, since attempts to limit or discourage its use have failed. They may pursue an NRCS grant to do this. She offered ITN assistance in the form of trail planning and consulting.

She also announced that outdoor recreation and trails are the topic of this year's FFA envirothon.

Patrick Saltonstall: Expressed concern over new trails leaving a large footprint in Natural Use areas in the borough, including the Salonie Creek drainage where a new 8-mile trail has appeared. A similar new trail has shown up in Middle Bay this year. These appear to have been planned trails, as chainsaws have been used to fell large trees in the trail corridor. Saltonstall would like to see this come to the attention of the land tenant, KISA, as well as the Kodiak Island Borough.

Pam Foreman: Has a call out to Rachel of Camp Mueller to discuss the availability of the building for our upcoming events.

Upcoming Meetings: To be determined following the Strategic Planning Workshop.

Adjournment: Meeting Adjourned at 1:35 PM.

Also in Attendance:

Hans Tschersich