

## ISLAND TRAILS NETWORK

Minutes of Regular Meeting  
02/10/09

**Call to order:** Whipple called meeting to order 12:05 PM 02/10/09 in the Chamber Conference Room.

**Quorum:** A quorum was established with Whipple, Slater, Witteveen, Saltonstall, Hansen and Foreman present.

**Approval of Agenda:** Whipple requested to add "consent agenda" under new business. Foreman moved to approve the agenda as amended. Hansen seconded. Carried 6-0.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting:** Foreman moved to approve the minutes of 12/09/08 as amended. Witteveen seconded. Carried 6-0.

**Election of Officers:** Schroeder distributed secret ballots. President will be Erin Whipple (6-0), Secretary will be Patrick Saltonstall (6-0), Treasurer will be Bree Witteveen (6-0).

### Old Business:

#### Trails Summit

Schroeder reported on several possible venues. His current recommendation was KHS choral pod, seating 125 people, charging \$33/hour and a \$2 surcharge on tickets sold. However you can't eat in the choral pod. The cafeteria and gym would be available spaces for the evening's activities. Other venues were explored but either don't allow fundraising or only serve their own food. Michalski suggested Golden Anchor. Foreman asked if presentations worked well at the anchor. Michalski said the Anchor has a drop down screen in front of the fireplace. Schroeder asked if outside food could be brought in. Foreman and Whipple replied that it could, but a rental fee is assessed. Whipple asked when we need to have made a decision. Foreman said she feel comfortable having Schroeder choose the venue if under \$500. Board agreed. Slater asked whether attendance would be discouraged by security on the base. Foreman said that for the Chamber's annual dinner, they are collecting names and drivers' licenses to avoid people having to go inside to get a visitor's pass. Whipple said she likes the Anchor, but prefers the high school because it is family friendly. Slater added that food could be served either in the cafeteria or foyer. Schroeder pointed out that the selection of the venue will dictate how the evening is formatted e.g. live vs. silent auction, whether or not we should have static displays,

and whether food should be served before or in conjunction with the presentations. Schroeder said that the auctioneer critiqued last year's auction, saying that you need alcohol to raise a lot of money, and that the auction should be continuous, as they like to "warm up" the crowd. Michalski suggested the entire event take place in the cafeteria. Foreman pointed out that some staging or an elevated screen might be necessary, but that otherwise the venue would work. Saltonstall said he liked the cafeteria idea. Foreman said the PA system might be available for the cafeteria. Schroeder will look further into cafeteria, choral pod and Golden Anchor.

Schroeder has identified Patrick Saltonstall, Phillip Tschersich, and Sharon Wielebski as guest speakers. This reflects a reduction from 4 to 3 speakers. Patrick will present on a float trip to the Ayakulik or Sturgeon river, Weilebski will likely present on an alpine skiing or trekking trip, and Tschersich might present on a number of things. Schroeder would like a short list of back-up speakers, if anyone knows of candidates, please let Schroeder know. Schroeder said the recurring theme is epic Kodiak trips. Slater asked if Schroeder would present on marine debris. Schroeder said he's presented on that frequently, but that it might be a good candidate for a static display. Whipple suggested someone that took part in one of these trips might be a speaker, other than Schroeder. Schroeder added that he's doing several YouTube videos of ITN events, and those might be shown at the Trails Summit.

ITN's first tee shirts will go on sale at the Trails Summit. Schroeder is still selecting sizes, colors and quantities. The two options for design will be "Get Out" or "Follow a Trail, Find Yourself". Graphic design artists will provide several options for board review at the next meeting.

Foreman pointed out that a silent auction might be done simultaneously with an online auction, with eBay or other auctions closing right at the Summit. Schroeder will look into that. Items up for auction will be determined. Whipple asked the board if we should auction larger big ticket items or more small ticket items. Witteveen suggested a combination of both. Saltonstall warned against having too many things at an auction. Schroeder asked if a silent auction is better in a recession economy? Foreman added that a recent auction at Tony's was relatively flat. Witteveen suggested Schroeder look at corporate sponsorship e.g. North Face, Patagonia, REI etc. He added that ITN may have a few trip opportunities that could be bid on. Whipple offered a donation of bear viewing trip at Camp Island on Karluk Lake. She also suggested Harry and Brigid Dodge as donors. Saltonstall mentioned that they would make good speakers as well.

## **New Business.**

## **2009 Calendar.**

Schroeder outline events already on the calendar including Trails Summit, Spring Kayaking Clinics. National Trails Day is the first weekend in June. Alaska Trails has been asked to provide sustainable trails training. NRCS is still interested in providing geoblock training that weekend, possibly at a degraded area of the fairgrounds. Island Lake Trail grant has funds remaining, and we're waiting for KIB to respond before submitting our scope of work. Near Island trails are still yet to be started on. The city hasn't produced an MOU for signature yet. This is relevant because some stimulus package funding is identified for trails, but they must be "shovel ready" and Near Island is the best candidate. Marine debris clean-ups will be identified in a pre-proposal to MCAF this week. Schroeder hopes to return to Long Island for a baseline study of MD return rates. We are hoping to return to Shuyak with a group from a NYC high school for a three week internship including a week at Shuyak, and another week working on a local trail. Marine Debris will take up a similar portion of the similar calendar, with lots of calendar space for urban and motorized trail projects. The picture is not as clear for motorized trail projects. Rumor has it that the farm bill may cap project funding available for its partners, which would limit Leisnoi. Erin said that ONC is planning on developing a trail from Anton Larsen Bay to Sharatin Trail, and have requested ITN do the work. Foreman cautioned that the Anton Larsen Bay community will scrutinize this, and to approach it very carefully. Whipple countered that there are no land ownership issues and it is well within the corporation's rights to develop the trail. Foreman advised that it is still an important PR issue. Schroeder compared the project to the Chichenof trail segment between Bartel and Ole Johnson, where the trail is "shovel ready" and the right of way exists, but the public has encroached on it with overflow storage from their backyards. PR will continue to be an important issue in trail development even where no land ownership issues exist. Finally, Tom Pogson of the Alaska Kayak School and acquaintance of Laura Slater's has asked to come to Kodiak to provide a three day kayaking course, with ITN helping to advertise the event. Schroeder said there are a lot of activities such as this that will keep the membership involved and cast ITN in a positive light.

Whipple said that with the number of potential items on the agenda it might be advisable to form an activities committee, with 1-2 board members plus some of the membership to help schedule all these events. Foreman and Slater volunteered to sit on the committee. Foreman moved to appoint an activities committee. Slater seconded. Passed 6-0.

## **Education/Outreach events**

Kayaking clinics would fall under this category, including pool events and Tom Pogson's course. But also the monthly activity we describe in the strategic plan, to involve the membership. One idea that surfaced between Slater and Witteveen was a bike maintenance workshop, which Philip Tschersich tentatively agree to instruct. Slater also describe the COASST program, which is a volunteer citizen-science initiative to identify seabird mortality on beaches from PNW to Alaska as a baseline study of natural mortality. Whipple applauded the idea, and asked that a list of potential activities be formed to prioritize and identify from many ideas which ones ITN will pursue.

## **Capital Needs List**

Whipple reported that the board tasked staff with producing a capital needs list. Schroeder produced a draft Rasmuson grant application. To summarize, he hopes for 12 Pulaskis, 6 McCleods, and various square point and firefighting shovels, bow saws and brush cutters totaling \$4200. They are also requesting a Polaris Ranger at \$13,000. Michalski pointed out that the high cost is for a brand new vehicle. Schroeder said that donated, used items were welcome as well through donations and borrowing. A new enclosed tool trailer that would enclose both the Ranger and all our tools could be purchased for \$8000. This capital needs list was produced to fall just under Rasmuson's Tier 1 grant limit of \$25,000. More recently, as more and more projects involve large groups from off-island, a van looks more appealing. Schroeder has used SAGA as a model for trail crew ideas, and they use vans with roof racks, and all the tools on a rack on the roof. For funding ideas outside Rasmuson, Schroeder identified the Island Lake Trail grant, which still has a lot of funds remaining including a \$5k line item identified for equipment. In the office, Schroeder needs a desktop computer with a fast processor and video card to do the movie editing and Google earth GIS work that we're getting into. Foreman asked if Schroeder is familiar with the Tech Soup website. Schroeder said he does look at them for hardware needs, but the hardware is sometimes a few years old. He does purchase software through them.

Whipple suggested we still apply for a Tier 1 Rasmuson grant, but acknowledged that their programs will be scaled back. Foreman suggested that we've got a healthy near-town list of trails projects, and that we need to place a priority on this in agreements with the city and borough, and to direct some funding toward that in future agreements. In the interim, Schroeder said we can rely on our own tools and continue to borrow from Kevin Murphy. Murphy added that Bill Luck (DNR) may be a good resource for grant funding for hand tools, and that machinery may be

eligible for this funding as well. Whipple added that the funding from Portage Dentists who have been contributing to the Portage trail could be used to tools. Foreman said we ought to maximize every opportunity to build the tool cache.

### **Policies and Procedures:**

Schroeder reported that as we do more and more remote projects and work with more and more volunteers of varying skill levels and ages, he is paying attention to ITN's liabilities and vulnerabilities to lawsuits. He circulated a draft Field Operations Handbook which outlines roles and responsibilities, promulgates drug, alcohol and sexual harassment policies, and outlines a risk-management philosophy. A participant agreement also exists in draft form but it is not included in this packet. Schroeder has also requested a quote on an Errors and Omissions insurance policy, on which he will report next meeting. Whipple said to be prepared to do background checks on staff. Foreman advised to consider which of our equipment minors should be allowed to use. Hansen said that the Boy Scouts can't use power tools under the age of 16, and that they have a standard agreement for the parents to sign. Whipple said board members should email comments on this to Schroeder.

**Consent Agenda:** Whipple said that in the future, ITN should move toward a consent agenda to save time during meetings. The paperwork will arrive in members' inboxes about 1 week prior to a meeting, and hopefully board members can read everything in advance. At the meeting, one motion will approve the agenda, and previous minutes. Foreman moved to approve the adoption of a consent agenda for future ITN meetings, beginning with the March 2009 meeting. Hansen seconded. Passed 6-0.

### **Reports**

ED Report provided in hardcopy. Schroeder highlighted the KIB Trails Plan Request for Proposals (RFP). Several firms have expressed interest. Erin Harrington will not be bidding on the project, but suggested that we contact a few firms to encourage them to bid. Several firms have already called ITN to ask general questions about Kodiak trails, and a few have expressed interest in subcontracting with us, which begs the question of whether ITN take part in the Trails Plan. Whipple said she has been contacted by several possible bidders, and said that she has discussed the land ownership issues, soil quality issues with some of the vendors and was surprised how little they knew about Kodiak's unique trails situation. Whipple added that planners need to know who grantors are and what their trail construction requirements are before making

recommendations for trail standards in Kodiak. One potential bidder will be visiting Kodiak on Thursday and asked to meet with ITN board and staff. Foreman tasked Schroeder to ask the borough clerk's office whether a conflict of interest exists for him personally, as well as her and Saltonstall, as all three sit on the KIB Parks & Recreation committee. Foreman and Whipple both stressed the importance of this plan and that ITN's involvement would be beneficial.

## **Communications**

Schroeder circulated in hardcopy a community grant request to Wal-Mart, and a letter to Rep. Austerman. Whipple commended Erin Harrington for making connections for ITN from Juneau. Schroeder said Austerman took an immediate interest in the letter, and that he is a trails advocate. Harrington is researching for him all the trail grant funding opportunities including ORTAB, ATI, etc. Witteveen asked to be educated on what all the acronyms mean. Schroeder believes he has some resources on that and will share them with her.

## **Audience Comments**

**Chris Windnagle:** Is an active trail user and has been a member since September, 2008. He brought a petition he has seen to have the KIB file an Amicus brief with the U.S. Supreme Court to reconsider the decision on the Leisnoi case. Windnagle asked what ITN's position on the case was. Foreman responded that it is a complex issue and ITN has not taken a position. Saltonstall pointed out that if Stratman won an appeal, that most of the land in question would still be private. Whipple gave a short history of the case, ANSCA and ANILCA which supported Saltonstall's claim. Foreman said she believe this brief would take a different legal argument. Foreman strongly suggested ITN remain silent on this issue, and stand ready to assist with trail management issues once the case and all appeals are decided. Foreman said that both sides will be present at Thursday night's KIB work session, 7:30 PM at the borough conference room. Windnagle closed by saying Leisnoi is starting to charge fees for passive land use, which is a new development in 2009.

**Frank Gillam:** Asked if we have heard anything on the re-opening of a trail that is currently on USGS topo maps connecting White Sands Beach to Anton Larsen Bay actually exists. Saltonstall said there is a trail easement, but that it's impassible. He added that a lot of these lands are public. Whipple said that a lot of these trails that border or cross the public watershed have been closed, and that DHS regulations have become more stringent. Foreman asked if the trail was originally an easement. Whipple said she would ask Chuck about it, as Koniag had

recently been researching land ownership and historical roads and trails in the area.

**Terry Michalski:** Doesn't see any progress on the USCG DVD. The relocation manager would be happy to distribute these in person, but it's too late to get them in the snail mail "welcome aboard" packages. Schroeder reported that this was discussed at the strategic planning meeting, and that he hopes to work with Brian Glaspell to produce a video in the coming year, but that the grant that they had identified fell through. Michalski asked if the Public Affairs office in Kodiak might be helpful—that they could produce the video. The board welcomed this idea and Schroeder said he would be in touch regarding this.

**Lisa Cole:** If Leisnoi loses control of their lands and it is returned to the state, that NRCS will no longer be able to provide funding for trail improvements, as they only work with agricultural producers like native corporations.

**Barbara Chase:** Kodiak is an interesting place to live with all the trail initiative and land ownership issues. She is glad to be onboard and wants to help any way she can.

#### **Director Comments:**

**Patrick Saltonstall:** Highlighted Phillip Tschersich's new snow report discussion board. Schroeder will forward the link to the board.

**Laura Slater:** Has a family relation coming to Kodiak who works for USFWS in Juneau, and is familiar with land trusts and is willing to have an informal lunch meeting with ITN board and staff on how to develop a land trust in Kodiak. Slater requested direction on specifically what we're looking for, to narrow the scope of the conversation. The date of the luncheon would be March 6<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Foreman:** None.

**Hansen:** None

**Witteveen:** None.

**Whipple:** None.

**Upcoming Meetings:** Was not discussed.

**Adjournment:** Foreman moved to adjourn, Witteveen seconded. Meeting adjourned at 1:45 PM.

**Also present:** Terry Michalski, Barbara Chase, Kevin Murphy, Frank Gillam,  
Chris Windnagle