

ISLAND TRAILS NETWORK

Minutes of Regular Meeting
09/02/09

Call to order: Whipple called meeting to order 12:00 PM 09/02/09 in the Chamber Conference Room.

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

Approval of Consent Agenda: Pam Foreman moved to approve the consent agenda. Ken Hansen seconded. Passed 6-0.

Audience Comments: None.

Unfinished Business

Anton Larsen Bay to Three Pillar Point trail: Schroeder gave staff update. Since the last meeting, we signed the contract with Ouzinkie to move forward with rehabilitation of this trail. Coming up are stakeholder meetings, equipment acquisition, selection of subcontractors, staffing/crewing for 2010 season.

Saltonstall asked if National Environmental Policy Act requirements had been met. Schroeder said a completed CPA-52 had been filed, but is not sure if more documentation will be required. Lisa Cole will be asked what level of review is required, and may have filed the initial paperwork. Schroeder will call Lisa Cole (NRCS) to find out the status of this project in light of NEPA.

Schroeder has gotten preliminary approval from the Army Corps of Engineers, but recently discovered the requirement for gravel fill at the bridge crossings. He will need to check again to see if USACE takes a new interest in the project because of this, or if NRCS will flex on the use of gravel.

Schroeder will distribute some talking points for the trail to board members by the end of next week.

Radical Reels Film Festival: Schroeder briefed the board on the date and time of the event, door prizes donated, expenses incurred and ticket sales, which are slow. Discussion ensued as to how to reach the high school audience, Arts Council, how to multiply the Facebook presence. We have an interview scheduled with KVOK and are seeking KMXT (Talk of the Rock, Jock of the Rock) as well. Foreman moved to approve up to \$300 in additional advertising to the budget amount originally approved. Saltonstall seconded. Discussion ensued. Schroeder will seek story coverage from Diana Gish, Jay Barrett, and Derek Clarkston.

Schroeder asked for help with admissions. Board members who wish to volunteer can show at 7:00. We'll need help with selling tickets and tee-shirts. Schroeder should send another email to general membership the Wednesday prior. The media push should really begin Tuesday & Wednesday. Motion for additional funding for Radical Reels passed 6-0.

Sun'aq Marine Debris Clean-up: Schroeder recounted history of Sunaq's approaching ITN last June to do a large scale road system marine debris clean-up. After many delays the project was approved by the EPA on August 6th. With the short timeline, a more condensed project developed. A Student Conservation Alliance (SCA) crew will do a five-day road system clean-up beginning September 19th in conjunction with International Coastal Clean-up day, and will spend the following four days in the field cleaning impacted sites identified in the 2007 aerial survey.

Discussion ensued as to selecting a singular beach to clean up, or to do a "CoastWalk" style event assigning groups to different areas. The former was chosen, settling on Bruhn Point. Tides will be rising throughout the day, so the event start time of 9:00 AM was chosen. Whipple will try to get Koniag employees to take part. Schroeder will use the SCA crew for organizing the event. The goal of the five days of clean-up is 5,000 lbs.

ORTAB grant application: Schroeder gave background on the ORTAB program. Previous suggestions for this funding mechanisms were bike path extensions such as the Chichenof Trace, the Alaska State Parks bike path into the park. Suzie Byersdorf used to sit on the ORTAB board. The deadline for applications is November 1st, with a possible pre-application deadline of October 1st. Discussion ensued as to what project in ITN's plan would be suitable for this funding mechanism. Discussion was tabled until more information about ORTAB requirements can be found. Susie Byersdorf should be a good resource.

Foreman announced that the Kodiak seat on the ORTAB board is open, and that it would be great for someone local or involved with ITN to sit on it.

14 Month Staffing Outlook: Schroeder referred to a letter he had distributed to the board identifying some staffing concerns and major milestones ITN needs to achieve in the next off-season and field season. He suggested the board take action on acquiring an ATV, and also consider moving the strategic planning session to earlier in the winter season.

Foreman said the ATV acquisition is already approved as part of the larger approval of the ALB project budget but asked to be updated when things deviate from that plan. Foreman also recommended to outsource the bookkeeping, and that local sources are available.

Board asked for some overall long-term projections as the discussion turns to Schroeder's contract salary, along with a report on the pros and cons of employee vs. contractor relationship between Schroeder and the board. Foreman emphasized the importance of cash flow throughout the year as ITN borrows more. Schroeder will contact George Schaaf and others to see what more mature non-profits are doing.

Schroeder elaborated on the seasonal staff model, explaining different possible internships ITN could consider: Outreach/education coordinator, Terra trails coordinator, Marine programs coordinator. Schroeder should identify what operating costs come from which projects and make some projections, as well as recommendations for more long-term and stable funding sources.

Board agreed to meet in late October and early November for strategic planning. Schroeder will send around some dates and shoot for at least 6 board members in attendance.

Audience Comments:

Erin Harrington: Will be putting on training in late September teaching non-profits how to interact with the legislature.

Terry Michalski: Will be in Anchorage beginning in November and would like to help ITN from there, if possible. Next meeting will be his last.

Director Comments:

Ken Hansen: Chief of Science with NOAA was visiting enforcement facility in Gibson cove, ran across pile of marine debris and took photos with it. Ken is trying to obtain the photos.

Patrick Saltonstall: Is not sure he supports the idea of trail from Monaskha to Cascade Lake. We should think hard about preserving wilderness areas without trails. He is very excited about the trails planning group that is writing the plan for the borough.

Laura Slater: Reminded the board that we had talked in the past about an event featuring locally-produced movies, perhaps this winter. They can be about much more than just outdoor sports, so perhaps a partner like arts council or fair wind players. A show of hands should be taken at Radical Reels.

Erin Whipple: High level Polaris executives sometimes visit Kodiak. We ought to keep an ear to the ground for an opportunity to show them our trails. Koniag will be hosting a project management course that Andy may be interested in attending. Thinks all ITN board members should have an ITN shirt. Schroeder will make it so.

Upcoming Meetings: Is to be decided upon following tomorrow's executive session.

Adjournment: Work session adjourned at 1:20 PM.

Also present: Terry Michalski, Erin Harrington, Josh Boyle, Chris Windnagle, Frank Gillam.

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