

Spearhead Huts Society Monthly Directors Meeting

Minutes

Date: March 19, 2024

Attending: Alan Woodland, Paul McBride, Ben Parsons, Jayson Faulkner, Chris Ludwig

Absent: Robin O'Neill, Andre Charland

Guests: Pierre Vacheresse

The meeting was called to order with quorum at 7:09pm

As Vice-President, Chris Ludwig agreed to chair the meeting in Andre's absence.

The agenda was approved with no amendments.

Minutes for the meeting held December 19, 2023 and February 27, 2024 were approved with no amendments.

Financial Report

Alan reported out that revenues through the first three months of the year (November 1 to January 31) were 20% lower than the prior year. Most expenses related to the Macbeth project were paused in January. Cash position is \$714,000.

The price of a hut booking will be increased to \$60.00 effective July 1. The price for club members will be increased to \$50.00 effective July 1. Vail Resorts will operate lifts on Whistler Mountain until May 20. Late season bookings at the hut should be encouraged and promoted.

A draft Investment Policy that limits the society to insured deposits at banks and credit unions, government guaranteed securities, and highly rated bank securities was discussed. A motion to adopt the Investment Policy was passed unanimously.

Following up on recommendations from the AGM, the following restricted funds were approved:

- Designate \$82,931 for the well and solar project fund
- Designate \$146,372 (the remaining amount of the Hill Family gift) for the Macbeth fund.
- Designate \$200,000 for the K&C replacement fund

Depreciation on the K&C hut assets is set at 4% annually (a 25 year amortization period).

Operations Committee

There was some discussion about extending the flight deck to make helicopter operations safer. It was noted that the building footprint should not be extended to make the permitting process with BC Parks easier.

The SHS Park-Use Permit requires SHS to file an updated Annual Operating Plan (AOP) before May 1 (*correction June 15*). An updated AOP will be shared with the board at the next meeting.

GDR Electric needs to make one more trip to the hut to complete the solar project. This is scheduled for March 21.

At the meeting with BC Parks in January, they had concerns about the condition of the septic system and its capacity to handle increased volumes of water from the proposed well were discussed. Ian Ralston, who developed the original design for the septic system, could provide us with an evaluation of performance and recommend any necessary improvements. We also need to contract with a marmot specialist to provide an opinion about any possible damage to the septic system and possible impacts on the marmot colony. Paul reported that Cascade Environmental has been engaged for the environmental impact assessment and their report should be finished before May 1. To qualify for PacifiCan grant funding, well equipment (pump and casings) will be pre-purchased and stored until BC Parks gives permission to proceed with the well project.

Pierre asked a question about making exceptions to standard reservations and booking policies with regard to long-term advance bookings. The Thompson Rivers University Adventure Studies program wants to make a large booking and has some difficulty with the 60 day advance booking window. It was agreed that exceptions to policy for schools and social-purpose groups would be granted on a case-by-case basis. Exceptions for commercial operators will not be allowed.

Chris reported out on the progress of the Cloudbeds project. Most of the features have been implemented, but a few issues remain including training for volunteer hut custodians/hut stewards, generating reports for accounting purposes, booking parking spots, and keeping track of guest credits (canceled reservations not paid out)

It was noted that ACC Whistler is using the old booking system. When SHS transitions to the Cloudbeds, there will need to be a plan in place to continue supporting Wendy Thompson Hut users.

Chris updated the SHS website to include minutes from previous meetings and the board agreed that these resources should be made available to the public. Chris asked that directors provide a photo and short bio so he can develop a new page with this content on the website.

Macbeth Update

Chris proposed that a mid-project review committee be established. Paul suggested that Liz Scremin be invited to participate in this committee. It was agreed that interested members would meet in April to discuss.

Fundraising

Ben shared a proposal from the Discovery Group for fundraising campaign planning and execution. To close the ~\$3 million gap between what has been pledged and what is needed to complete the project, we need to have a strategy to identify and engage prospective donors and secure major gifts.

Society Matters

Chris introduced a proposed amendment to the SHS Bylaws that allows for electronic voting:

Part 5: Proceedings at General Meetings

Add new section 5.8 (1)

Members of the society who are entitled to participate in meetings, including voting, may do so by telephone, videoconference or other electronic medium.

Part 7: Proceedings of the Board

Add new section 7.6

Directors may participate in meetings of the directors, including voting, by telephone, videoconference or other communication means, on any notice and manner that is convenient for the directors.

Alan and Ben were asked to circulate these proposed changes to the ACCW and ACCV section executives. SHS needs to obtain approval from the ACC sections in the form of an ordinary resolution at a regular board meeting. Once this has been completed, SHS can have a special general meeting to pass a special resolution to amend the bylaws.

Ben and Chris will meet to discuss any other changes to the bylaws that may be required for compliance with the Societies Act.

It was agreed that board meetings will continue to be held on the third Tuesday of every month at 7pm.

Alan will make a callout for agenda items in advance of the meeting. Alan offered to assist the chair with putting the agenda together and distributing materials to directors in advance.

It was agreed that staff (Pierre, Iain) be invited to every meeting. Guests may also be invited to observe (and participate) in meetings.

Chris noted that all directors should receive an email when decisions are made or actions are taken between board meetings. Chris suggested the SHS board of directors have an in-person meeting in 2024.

The next board meeting will be held April 16, 2024 at 7pm.

The meeting was adjourned 8:25pm