

IDITAROD TRAIL COMMITTEE INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Millennium Alaska Hotel
October 5, 2012

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Andy Baker at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, October 12.

Members present: Andy Baker, Aaron Burmeister, Stan Foo, Mike Jonrowe, Mike Owens, Danny Seybert and Aliy Zirkle

Members absent: John Handeland (excused), Rick Swenson (excused) & Joe Redington, Sr.

Others present: Stan Hooley, Executive Director; Mark Nordman, Race Director; Erin McLarnon, Communications Director; Don Patterson, Finance Director; Greg Bill, Development Director; Stuart Nelson, Jr., DVM, Chief Veterinarian; Joanne Potts, Recording Secretary and Eric Rogers

The President noted that Joe Redington's absence is excused. He is on the trail.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF JULY 11, 2012

Seybert/Foo moved to adopt the minutes of the July 11, 2012 Board Meeting.

It was noted that Mike Jonrowe was excused from the June meeting.

Seybert/Foo motion passed.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – ANDY BAKER

Baker reported that he continues to work on the Willow re-start agreement and the legislative request. He explained that he will be meeting with the new contact for the Willow airport. Regarding the legislative request, he says the Board hasn't decided whether to ask for 1 MIL or 1.5 MIL. He will be going to Juneau during the first half of January. He will also be meeting with local representatives and Rep. Foster in Nome.

He asked Hooley to write up a white page for making this request.

Jonrowe offered the help of DeeDee Jonrowe as she knows Mike Chenault.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – STAN HOOLEY

Hooley submitted a written report.

Baker asked if there was anything written anywhere about mushers signing up that have legal issues they are dealing with. He asked to discuss that during executive session.

Seybert noted that in his opinion, becoming financially stable rather than being a bigger race should be the most important priority.

Hooley explained the operating plan approved in June budgeted for an increase of \$312 K over revenues in FY12, an increase of \$126K over expenses in FY12, net revenues of \$374K and long term debt payment totaling \$49K.

After completing three months of this fiscal year, the forecast of revenues is \$48K over budget and for expenses, a decrease of \$56K over budget. The decrease in revenues of \$12K is from reduction in merchandise sales during the summer. The increase of \$56K in expenses comes from a grant of \$60K for trail work. A reduction in expense of \$4K comes from reduced insurance costs for FY13.

He emphasized that for the forecast to be realized, the targets in fund raising activities, must be met, raffles, special events and sponsor revenues. Expenses must also be held in areas that sometimes can get out of control.

Hooley noted that we are expecting the final payment for the line of credit soon. He must make them understand that the need is NOW. Patterson noted that we are expecting a long term debt by the end of the year of \$188K. The line of credit has come down from \$400K in the last few years. Hooley will e-mail the breakdown of the long term debt as of 8/31/12.

The reserve account is forecasted to be \$180K, assuming that the fund raising goals are successful. \$262K in new sponsorship was budgeted or which \$160K is replacing sponsorship that we had last year and don't have this year. He said we think we have another \$75K in additional funding from ExxonMobil.

He noted that the Accounts Payable will not look so good without the Line of Credit.

RACE DIRECTOR/RACE MARSHAL'S REPORT – MARK NORDMAN

Nordman submitted a written report. He is in New Orleans at this time.

CHIEF VETERINARIAN'S REPORT – STUART NELSON, JR., DVM

Nelson was asked about the worming pills and he doesn't think they will be available through Bayer as they have been. He has enough left from prior years to get through this year, but we will have an issue for the 2013 Race.

DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR'S REPORT – GREG BILL

Bill submitted a written report. He noted the Oxygen-Octaine show at the Dena'ina this weekend and said Anchorage Chrysler Dodge Jeep offered to share their space with us to see raffle tickets at this show.

Bill noted that he believes the relationship with Anchorage Chrysler Dodge Jeep will continue with the three board members who he works with now.

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR'S REPORT – ERIN MCLARNON

McLarnon noted that we have 18,000 friends of Face Book now.

IOFC REPORT – AARON BURMEISTER

Burmeister reported that the big IOFC project has been the conex for the dog lot in Nome. He has the conex donated but now is looking for windows and doors and a stove.

HONORARY MUSER COMMITTEE – AARON BURMEISTER

Burmeister noted that the committee wanted to go ahead and announce the honorary musher now rather than in December so:

Burmeister/Jonrowe moved to make Jan Newton the honorary musher.

Burmeister noted that the committee had discussed whether to have it just be Jan or whether it should be Jan and Dick. He will talk to Dr. Sayers for ideas about that.

He could reach Dr.Sayer, so the motion was voted on to make Jan Newton the honorary musher.

Burmeister/Jonowe motion passed unanimously.

FAN INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE – AARON BUMEISTER

Aaron noted that Eric Rogers is here and we need to get that committee going.

MUSER'S REPORT – ALIY ZIRKLE

Zirkle reported that the most she had heard from mushers was discussion about the musher who was accused of using drugs last year. She said the big positive she has received from mushers is about Iditarod's paying \$1,000 of their food drops.

RICK SWENSON JOINED THE MEETING VIA PHONE.

ACTION ITEM(S) RESOLUTION(S) FROM PLANNING SESSION

Seybert/Owens moved that Iditarod not solicit donations or sponsorship from a tobacco company.

Seybert noted that it is our goal to promote a healthy race.

Seybert/Owens motion passed.

QRB

There was discussion regarding the makeup of the QRB, particularly that there should be a board member on that board.

After lengthy discussion, the Board came up with new verbiage for Part 3 of Rule 1.

Jonrowe/Zirkle moved the following verbiage:

All rookie and veteran musher's qualifications will be reviewed by a Qualifying Review Board. The board will meet monthly from July to February or as needed . Mushers will be notified of acceptance or rejection within 5 days of review. The Qualifying Review Board will be composed of five (5) people. Four (4) of the people will be recommended by the Rules Committee and appointed by the Board of Directors. All members of the Qualifying Review Board shall be official Iditarod finishers in good standing. The Chair of the Rules committee shall be the final member of the Qualifying Review Board. The Rules Committee chair shall appoint the Chair of the Qualifying Review Board. The decision to accept or reject any musher will be made by the Qualifying Review Board. The decision of the Qualifying Review Board will be final and binding. Motion passed.

Zirkle will notify those involved tonight.

REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION FROM QUALIFYING RACE REQUIREMENT

The letter requesting the exemption from Cindy Abbot was discussed.

Seybert/Jonrowe moved to reject the request. Motion passed.

A letter will be sent to her telling her she's eligible to sign up late and there is a method in the rules for that. She will also be reminded that she must attend the rookie meeting on December 1 and 2.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The executive session was to discuss entries with legal issues.

OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

Owens/Burmeister moved that a rule should be made regarding the entry for mushers who have legal issues. The motion was not voted on.

DIRECTORS COMMENTS

Mike Owens: Appreciated everyone's hard work. A lot still to do. As a team we'll succeed.

Stan Foo: Excited about being part of the Board and thanked everyone for their patience with him.

Mike Jonrowe: Welcomed Stan Foo and thanked the staff for their hard work.

Aaron Burmeister: Heading in the right direction. Need to work on continued development. Hooley needs to let them know when he needs any help.

Aliy Zirkle: Looking forward to the sponsor party. Thanks the staff. Thanked Eric Rogers for being there. Told Hooley he could rely on board members for help.

Danny Seybert: Thinking back to when sponsors first came to the board with concerns about whether Iditarod was a viable organization. Thanked everyone for helping to make it viable again.

Andy Baker: Looking forward to the Volunteer Committee. Expecting a good race. Thanked everyone.

Stan Hooley: Appreciates everyone's work in make this a bigger and better event. Tentatively planning the sponsor get-together the evening on the November 30 board meeting.

Andy Baker: Been on a lot of boards. This is a great board, doing good things.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 11:09. Next meeting on November 30, 2012.