

ITC Board Meeting
Millennium Hotel, 9am
Friday, April 24, 2015

Board Members Present: Stan Foo, Paul Gebhardt, Mike Jonrowe, Mike Evans, Andy Baker, Danny Seybert, Aaron Burmeister
Telephonically: Rick Swenson, John Handeland

Staff Present: Stan Hooley, Don Patterson, Mark Nordman, Andy Willis, Stu Nelson, Willie Karidis

Majority of Board present, Quorum reached.

Andy Baker calls meeting to order

Additional items to Agenda, 10.2 new 5 year plan, 10.3 musher rule of conduct, 10.4 composition of the board

Danny Seybert motions to approve, Mike Owens second, passes unanimously

Adoption of Minutes: February 20, 2015, Mike Owens motions to approve, second by Mike Jonrowe. Passes unanimously

Presidents report, none submitted

CEO report, Stan Hooley:

Financial forecast, 175K net revenue

\$120,000 yet to earn by June 30, 2015

Outstanding debt: ITRF: \$250,000

Forecasted FYE Balance: \$250,000

Wells Fargo Line of Credit 1: \$100,000

Forecasted FYE Balance: \$100,000

Wells Fargo LOC 2: \$0

Forecasted FYE Balance: \$0

Next month area of focus will be analyzing this past year's and developing next years proposed budget the end of the third week of May. Approval of budget at the May 29th meeting.

Mike Jonrowe: Asks Willie how race went. Willie: Race was amazing, lots of opportunity for growth. Enjoyed working with Volunteers. Worried about mushers at the end of the race. There is logic in limiting the field to keep the race competitive. Felt honored to be part of the process.

Stan Foo, new revenue streams prospects? Stan, Want to grow existing revenue streams. Exploring putting together a fall event gala but unsure of stretching our resources. Need to have competitors show up. Form a committee of sponsors, IOFC, others to help with focused event. October/November event.

Andy Baker, Great job by everyone on the race this year.

Mark Nordman, we are still wrapping up this past years race, room for improvements next year, this board meeting comes up pretty quick for us, tough time for us as we still have so many loose ends. This year we felt that mushers were respectful in the checkpoints. Need to work on the arch this summer. Need to spend more time in the offseason in some of the checkpoints to work on public relations notably Elim.

New blood for judges. They felt the excitement of the Race. Marks goal is to get checkpoints geared up and excited about next year.

Finger Lake up to the Happy, new trail project, \$50,000 grant awarded. Board would like to see a 5 year long term plan for trail maintenance.

Iditarod Air Force, need an update from the FAA from this past year and looking forward.

Stu Nelson, submitted a written report.

Tentatively the final reports for the necropsy studies will be presented in May to address dog deaths during the 2015 race. The gross necropsies were completed within 24 hours. The hystopathological and toxicological studies are pending with reports expected for the May 29th board meeting. Lower percentage of dropped dogs this race.

IOFC report:

Aaron Burmeister, litter on the trail, mushers were embarrassed about this. Mark, amazing to me that we are still talking about this. Need a long term fix.

Need to improve the marking on the Coast and on the upwind side.

Insider camera crew: want to better communicate with them. When snowmachines pass the mushers the dog teams slow down. How do we balance coverage and impact to mushers? Mushers adjust race schedule to make sure we are minimally affected by snowmachines.

Want Trail Breakers to have left side throttles on trail breaker snowmachines. It will cost more money to do this, \$100 approximately per machine.

Aaron, plan for next year, groomer and core trail breakers need to be 24 hours ahead but there should be 2 trail breakers at 8 hours ahead. Mark, we were mandated two years ago that all the trail breakers needed to be 24 hours ahead. Mark, needs leeway to adjust. Rick, last machine in convoy needs a packer for the trail, to help groom the trail.

Need to have trailbreakers get together with Insider crew and come up with traveling solutions which have less impact on the mushers.

There are lots of other snowmachines on the trail other than the Insiders. Norwegians, other media, other folks on the trail are a cause for concern because we do not speak with them.

Connex in Nome. Scott Janssen donated a generator for it.

Rules Committee:

Paul Gebhardt,

Rule 2 suggestion to keep maximum entry of mushers at 100. Broader question then just numbers. Need to discuss how we will handle this in the future, what criteria/priorities will we use?

Rule 15

Sled trailers, discussion about limiting trailers to one and three sleds. Another option is a musher is allowed 3 sleds, 1 of them is a trailer, so 2 sleds and 1 trailer. (Trailers semi rigidly connected to the primary sled. All different sizes and types.)

May 29th meeting will come up with language for voting on rules.

Mark, likes the idea of one trailer. Good to be able to look at trailers so we can see what is going out on the trail. Need to stipulate in rules how mushers get sleds back to hubs.

Air force can't get them back.

If mushers drop sleds outside of a hub they are responsible for getting the sled back to a hub.

Lots of benefits to dogs with hauling a trailer.

No consensus.

Rule 16

Mandatory Items, proposed requiring one cable neckline in sled for each dog that starts the race. Proposed that ITC supply these and add cost of necklines to entry fee. Aaron suggests 20.5" for the length of the neckline with Swedish snaps. Used for when dog is dropped until they get to the hub. Something that we would have to provide every year. Need 16 necklines mandatory.

Also discussed mandatory dog coats. Consensus was to not do this.

Rule 35

Electronic Devices, Keep the same.

Rule 38

Equipment and team configuration, no more than 2 dogs abreast.

Nominating Committee

Aaron Burmeister: Stan Foo and John Handeland will continue in their capacity of board members as board elected/appointed seats. Member elected nominees are Rick Swenson and Dan Seavey.

Aaron makes motion to accept the slate, Stan Foo seconds, motion passes.

Personal Conduct Policy:

“Commencing on the date of their individual signup for the Annual Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race (“Race”) and continuing until 45 days after the last musher completes that year’s Race, mushers shall not make public statements or engage in any public conduct injurious to and in reckless disregard of the best interests of the Race. This includes public statements or acts which are disparaging to any of the sponsors of that year’s Race. Notwithstanding the provisions of Rule 52, the sanctions for violation of this rule will be determined at the discretion of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors and may include forfeiture of the entrance fee, involuntary withdrawal, retroactive disqualification and prospective disqualification for a period of years.”

Mike Jonrowe makes motion to accept “Personal Conduct Policy”, Rule 52, second by Paul Gebhardt, motion passes.

Carol Frazier, General Manager of Millennium Hotel, gives report about the update of renovations at Hotel. Explains that as part of the upgrades the Hotel will be redoing the outside of the building and will be removing the sign, Iditarod, The Last Great Race, Race Headquarters. Carol suggests that when the sign comes down they make it into a press event announcing that something new will be happening. The sign will not be going back up. Want to make an Iditarod area, make a statue of a dog, people can sit down and take pictures. We love our partnership with the Iditarod. We are going to continue it, hopefully for the next 10 years, only the sign will not be up.

10.2 At next meeting ITC staff, will present budget for next fiscal year. As part of this budget the board would like to see a 5 year plan which addresses the ITC long term debt, increase of prize money, establishment of a cash reserve which would require retiring \$70,000 of debt per year for 5 years for a total of \$350,000 which is the total of our two revolving credit loans which is necessary for operational costs. Wants the 5 year plan to increase prize \$50,000 each year however the priority needs to be to paying off budget reserve rather than prize money if a choice needs to be made.

Also there needs to be priority given to include addressing capital needs for ITC. Roof needs to be replaced this summer.

10.4 Board Composition, Targeting specific individuals to join the board such as an attorney or a CPA or other profession we need. Should we be looking for these people? Find the people first and then expand after that. Very valuable if they are the right people. Reputational history is valuable.

10.5 Evaluation of CEO, performance objectives and framework need to be developed by board. Need to communicate to the CEO to give goals and evaluation for the year. Andy Baker suggests we do this at the next meeting.

Mike Owens makes motion to move into Executive Session, second by Paul Gebhardt, motion passes.

Meeting adjourned