

Iditarod Trail Committee  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Millennium Hotel, Room 4038  
May 29, 2015

Board Members Present: Andy Baker, Rick Swenson, Stan Foo, Mike Jonrowe, Paul Gebhardt

Board Members Telephonically: John Handeland, Aaron Burmeister

Board Members Excused: Danny Seybert, Mike Owens

Staff Members Present: Stan Hooley, Don Patterson, Joanne Potts, Willie Karidis

Public comment none:

**Stan Foo motion to approve agenda, Paul Gebhardt second. Moved Executive Session between President's report and Management/Financial Report. Motion Passed.**

**Motion to adopt minutes, Rick Swenson motion to approve agenda, Stan Foo, second. Motion passes.**

Presidents Report: Busy time need to do CEO evaluation.

**Motion to move to Executive Session, John Handeland, Mike Jonrowe second. Motion passes.**

CEO Report:

Current financial forecast \$178K net, \$21K under budget.

We have had positive cash flows for the past 6 years however no progress has been made on establishing cash reserves. This year according to the 5 year plan we were to have \$600,000 set aside. 2 things to attribute this to.

1. Decision to lower the entry fees, cover shipping costs, accounts for \$486,000 in decreased revenue.
2. Capitol expenditure to rehab outside of building

Discussion of overall sponsor status.

Discussion of membership numbers, currently at 1332 active members. Peaked at approximately 5,000 members.

Membership Levels:

\$50 Wheel Dog

\$100 Team Dog

\$130 Lead Dog

\$1500 Lifetime

\$250 Trailbreaker Business

\$500 Championship Business

Announcement of Dr Stu Nelson Jr as the recipient to win the AVMA, American Veterinarian Medical Association Meritorious Service Award. Nominated by his Veterinary Team, AVMA is flying him to Boston to accept the award on July 11<sup>th</sup>. The AVMA Meritorious Service Award recognizes an individual veterinarian who has brought public honor and distinction to the veterinary profession through personal, professional, or community service activities that are conducted outside the scope of organized veterinary medicine or research.

This is a special award by the AVMA, not annually given, only when determined by AVMA to be deserved. We are proud of Stu and his commitment to the Sled Dogs of the Iditarod.

June 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting @ 10am, Organizational Meeting @ noon. Sign ups from 9:30a-2:30p. Volunteer Picnic @ 12:00p

Stu Nelson, (subsequent to this meeting a press release was issued, June 4<sup>th</sup>, which summarized his report, the content of the press release follows):

“Comprehensive histopathological evaluation of tissues from Wyatt and Stiffy are complete, including peer review by a second veterinary pathologist. No morphologic changes were detected that could definitively identify the cause of the deaths. There was no evidence of abuse or neglect. The most probable cause of death in each case was an acute cardiac event. More specifically, cardiac electrical disturbances likely precipitated the arrests, since no cardiac histopathological abnormalities were identified. Electrical disturbances do not demonstrate abnormal lesions on a necropsy study. A second review of the pre-race ECGs from those dogs did not reveal pre-existing abnormalities that would have put the dogs at risk. Efforts are still being made to potentially reveal any underlying factors that may have contributed to the suspected cardiac electrical disturbances.”

Rules Committee:

Rule 2, Maximum number of mushers will be 100, not 85.

Rule 5, Race Start and Re-start, take out Willow Community Center

Rule 9, Awards Presentation, suggestion to take away award if the musher does not finish. ½ way to the Yukon for example, if they don't finish we take the award back. Not agreed upon.

Rule 15, One trailer may be drawn and is to be considered one of three allowable sleds.

Rule 16, ITC will provide 16 Mandatory cable drop lines to be carried on sleds at all times until such times that they are needed for drop dogs from a team. Cable neck lines will be supplied by ITC. **Mike Jonrowe makes motion, Paul Gebhardt second. Motion passes**

**second. Motion passes**

~ITC will pay in 2016 the first \$800 over every teams food drop freight, Motion by Paul Gebhardt, second by Mike Jonrowe, Motion passes \*

Rule 17, propose to allow 5 dogs to finish on the towline from 6. **Paul Gebhardt makes motion, second by Mike Jonrowe. Motion passes**

**Mike Jonrowe makes motion to accept all rules as amended, Paul Gebhardt seconds. Motion passes**

\* (in 2015 ITC covered the first \$1000 for each teams food drop freight (unlisted bonus) the \$200 reduction will cover the cost of the mandatory 16 necklines which ITC will supply.)

IOFC report, Aaron Burmeister, nothing new.

Discussion about board giving. The Board unanimously agreed to contribute individually to ITC with an annual individual cash gift, the amount determined by each Board member individually, to validate their commitment to the organization which will increase our potential for successful grant writing campaigns.

Andy Baker leaves.

**Nominating Committee makes motion to formally appoint Stan Foo (Seat 2) and John Handeland (Seat 1) to continue in their board seats.**

**Aaron Burmeister makes motion for John Handeland to continue in the board appointed seat, Mike Jonrowe second, motions passes.**

**Aaron Burmeister makes motion for Stan Foo to continue in the board appointed seat, Mike Jonrowe second, motions passes.**

CEO Evaluation, done by next month. In the next go around we will present achievable goals. We have asked Stan to help us develop those goals.

**John Handeland makes motion to table this until next regularly scheduled board meeting, Paul Gebhardt seconds, motion passes.**

Paul Gebhardt, wants new criteria for Humanitarian Award. Rick Swenson, the musher who has to deal with dog sickness instead of just a bullet proof team and who finishes with 10 dogs will never win even though they had to work the hardest to get the dogs into the top 20 because they did not finish with 16 dogs.

Thresh hold for presenting an award is \$100,000. Idea to present to ask AK Airlines to have a one page advertising article in their AK Airline magazine about the Iditarod Insider.

Budget discussion. Don Patterson presents overview of the budget.

Increase purse from \$700,000 to \$750,000

Increase financial reserve \$70,000

Discussion of third party merchandising. This is a good idea as long as we can make equivalent dollars or add more to our bottom line.

Tracker and Insider up by 10%. We would like it to be even higher.

Stan Hooley, we need to have a creative board meeting with Greg Heister. Dogs running is what people want to see.

Stan Hooley, wants to be clear, we are proposing removing group health insurance and adding the money from health insurance premiums to salaries.

Mike Jonrowe main concern is we start refunding our budget reserve.

**Rick Swenson makes motion to approve budget for 2015-16, Paul Gebhardt seconds, motion passes.**

**Paul Gebhardt makes motion to adjourn, Stan Foo seconds, motion passes.**

Meeting Adjourned