

Sovereign Lake Nordic Club
Board of Directors Meeting
February 23, 2022 (by videoconference)



MINUTES

Meeting chaired by Cyndy Flores

Call to order: 7.05 PM

Present: Cyndy Flores, Rob Oxenham, Hugh Seaton, Tara Fulop, Dren Maloku, Marshall Moleschi, Bill Miller, Sue Cairns, Ted Angen, Malcolm Devine, Troy Hudson
Jacqueline Akerman (for item 5)

1. Approval of Agenda

Agenda approved.

2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Approved.

3. New Business

Add: Update on viaSport outdoor activity guidelines after item 5.

4. Finance Report

January 2022 was a good month, with \$193 K in revenues and good cost control. The Finance Committee met recently and although there are still several months to go in the fiscal year, the forecast is that we should end up with a profit similar to last year. However, additional expenses are foreseen (esp. 2008 groomer repairs). The FC is starting to work on the 2022-23 budget and hopes to have a draft for review by March or April, for approval in May. Major expenditures are forecast for next year, including a new Pistin Bully (ca. \$530 K, part of which may come from grants), lodge renewal, etc.

Committee Reports

- (a) Malcolm indicated he has added all committee reports to the relevant folders on the SLNC Google drive and asked all committee chairs to check they are all there. He also requested that all committees confirm they have provided updated Terms of Reference, with an approved date and date for review.

- (b) GM: A brief summary was presented, showing that overall operations are running well. Troy indicated recent 2008 groomer repairs so far are ~\$6 K and will probably be in the order of \$12-15 K by the time it's complete. Plans are to have a major service on the machine at a cost of \$40 K conducted over the summer. This servicing is estimated to add the value of the groomer when we sell it is sold and a new groomer is acquired. However, this will add to the value of the groomer when we sell it next year, when a new groomer is acquired.
Marshall asked for clarification of SuperCamp financial numbers, which had changed since the previous report. Troy explained this was due to (a) additional sales for the March SuperCamp and (b) some refunds for people not able to attend earlier camps for various reasons.

Additional item: viaSport requirements for outdoor activities.

Proof of vaccination is no longer required for participation in outdoor activities in BC. This raises the question of whether S2S will continue to require proof of vaccination, as is currently the case. Troy agreed to check with management at SSMR so that policies are aligned. There could be an issue with skiers from other provinces that no longer have any need for proof of vaccination documentation.

(c) Volunteer: No report.

(d) Competitions: Detailed report submitted by Marcus/Marshall. All going well.

Motion: That the SLNC BOD approve holding the BC Winter Games Nordic events at Sovereign Lake (March 23-26, 2023), pending an agreement from BCWG they will provide an appropriate level of volunteer assistance. **Carried.**

(e) Programs: Sue provided a brief written report indicating all running well.

(f) Health and Safety: No report.

(g) Lodge: Malcolm provided a brief update. A survey of people involved in previous lodge projects has pointed out some issues and pitfalls to be aware of, and will help guide our activities this time. A volunteer retired architect has agreed to provide “hand sketches” of two possible new lodge versions; these will be used as a starting point for further discussion. A group is working on a detailed strategy encompassing all activities concerning a new lodge, as an aid to guiding our activities over the next 12-24 months.

5. New Business

Programs Proposal: Jacqueline Ackerman & Troy Hudson

Jacqueline and Troy were invited to present their proposal for expansion of Programs and associated staffing at SLNC.

Jacq (primarily) and Troy spoke to this proposal and fielded questions from the BOD. Jacq explained that Programs are expanding and additional staff is required to manage all the activities (coaching, races, weekend events, etc. With some people associated with Programs in new positions, more time is taken up with planning. Most of Jacq’s activity is with Academy and Junior Development programs, though she is also involved in Biathlon and Skills Development. Jacq spoke to the advantages Sovereign has – a long season, good trails and a professional organization, and people want to come here to train. As an aside, strong programs and success in competitions may help bring in sponsors for other projects, e.g., the lodge.

The expanded program calls for three coaching positions: Nordic, Biathlon and Masters HP. New recruits will fund the new positions at a competitive price compared to other training facilities in Canada. They have identified a high-level Nordic and biathlon coach who is eager to move to Sovereign in June, to help develop new/expanded programs. Ideally, recruitment of new skiers could begin in March.

Troy explained that this represents an expansion of existing programs, bring in new skiers at the high school and post-secondary level who know Sovereign and want to come here to train. There is a demand from skiers post-Academy, looking for coaching to take them to the National level. Troy suggested the budget is reasonable, with the additional costs covered by increased revenues from participants. (A detailed budget projection was provided to the BOD for review.)

A Q and A session followed:

Q: Are athletes not currently getting full training, because coaches spread too thin?

A: They are getting full training, on- and off-season, but current coaching staff are overworked. Full-time Masters HP and Biathlon coaches will flesh out our capacity. (The full-time, seasonal biathlon coach will not be coaching in the future.)

Q: Request for clarity on the net coaching change.

A: Will have three full-time coaches, Nordic, Biathlon and Masters HP, sharing responsibilities at times. Total salary increase for coaches will be \$63 K.

Q: Will this impact non-Program members – access to trails, more competitions, etc.

A: No, no new competitions, only a small increase in overall member numbers.

Q: As Programs are self-funding, will the added cost will come from within Programs?

A: Yes.

Q: Level of confidence in the proposal?

A: High. Troy believes the numbers are realistic and expenses will be kept under control.

6. Old Business

(a) Winter Carnival Parade: Tara provided a summary of the event, which by all accounts was very successful. She thanks the many participants, including Brent ___ for providing the trailer and Jacqueline for assistance in bringing lots of gear down from Sovereign. The BOD thanked Tara for her efforts to make our first participation in this event a success.

(b) Volunteer year-end appreciation: Cyndy indicated a meeting will be held next week to plan this. The event may include an Annual Awards component.

(c) Strategic Plan: Troy has identified three potential facilitators to work with us on the next Strategic Plan and is getting cost estimates from them. It is not yet decided if we should go with an external consultant or a member volunteer with appropriate experience. Malcolm indicated a new Strategic Plan will be an important part of the package we will need to go after large funding opportunities for the new lodge.

7. Next BOD Meeting: Wednesday March 23, 2022

8. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8.37 PM.