

IDITAROD TRAIL COMMITTEE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
April 29, 2016
Lakefront Anchorage Hotel

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the president, Andy Baker, at 9:05 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Members present: Andy Baker, Aaron Burmeister, Stan Foo, Paul Gebhardt, John Handeland (via phone), and Mike Jonrowe (via phone for a while and then there in person).

Members absent: Mike Owens (excused), Rick Swenson (excused), Danny Seybert (excused)

Others present: Stan Hooley, CEO; Willie Karidis, COO; Mark Nordman, Race Director/Race Marshal; Don Patterson, Finance Director; Stu Nelson, DVM, Chief Veterinarian; Bob Stewart, Iditarod Attorney; Tegan Hanlon, Reporter; Craig Medred, Reporter; and Matt Tunseth, Editor, Frontiersman

A quorum was present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Burmeister/Gebhardt moved that agenda item 11.2 be moved up on the agenda to 5.2. Motion passed unanimously.

The agenda was approved as amended.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 12, 2016

Foo/Burmeister moved to adopt the minutes of February 12, 2016. Motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 11.2 (NOW 5.2) REFINEMENT OF PERSONAL CONDUCT POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT OF MECHANICS OF ANY DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

Gebhardt/Burmeister moved to go into Executive Session to discuss the above agenda item. Motion passed unanimously.

The board went into Executive Session at 9:09 a.m. and came back out of Executive Session at 10:32.

The meeting was called back to order at 10:50 a.m.

Jonrowe/Entire Board of Directors moved that the ITC Board recognizes that domestic violence is a pervasive problem in the State of Alaska and society in general. It will immediately implement a process of reviewing its rules and policies, with the assistance of an advisory committee, with the objective of revising those rules for future races to better address this serious social issue.

The Board hereby resolves, pursuant to Rules 1 and 2, that it will not accept race applications from Travis Beals in 2017 and for an indefinite period of time thereafter. The duration of the indefinite period of time beyond 2017 will depend in large part on documentation of successful completion of all court ordered rehabilitation.

Jonrowe/Entire Board of Directors motion passed unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Baker noted that he had nothing new to report.

CEO Report

Hooley noted that he had not submitted a written report and would defer to the Chief Operating Officer. He noted that if there were questions, he would be happy to answer them.

COO Report

Willie Karidis submitted a written report. Karidis went through his written report and noted that WTC (Wildlife Trading Company), will be refocusing on E commerce, explaining that there is a lot to do there.

In the written report, Karidis noted that the Daily Show on the Insider had been a success. We had free satellite time this year but he explained that if we have to buy satellite time next year, it will cost \$3500 per day.

RACE DIRECTOR/RACE MARSHAL REPORT

Mark Nordman submitted a written report.

Nordman went through his written report and noted since the report was written, the FAA has granted the Iditarod Air Force a three year exemption. He explained that this is huge. We have only had a two year exemption in the past and we're working toward a permanent exemption.

He noted that his trip to Nikolai to meet with the Nikolai Tribal Council and the City of Nikolai regarding replacement of the checkpoint building will be this coming Wednesday. He will return on Friday.

President Baker expressed the appreciation of the entire board to Andy Willis and his trail crew for their work this year and for all Willis has done for the past 11 years. Nordman had noted in his report that Willis accepted a job flying for Ryan Air.

CHIEF VETERINARIAN'S REPORT

Dr. Nelson submitted a written report.

In addition to his written report, he noted that prior to the race, they focused on five kennels that had been involved with parvovirus. They tested all the dogs that were in the race from those kennels and all tested negative for parvovirus. They also tested 10 suspicious dogs during the race and they all tested negative.

He explained that the left over SNAP testing kits for parvovirus that were purchased this year will be held for use next year.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Don Patterson explained that the operating plan that the Board adopted in early June of 2015 called for revenues of approximately \$4.2 million and expenses of approximately \$4.1 million. He noted while the expenses came in under budget by \$229K, the revenues came in under budget by \$503K. So now we have forecasted a net deficit of \$177K. That can primarily be attributed to the loss of \$100K in sponsorship from the Sportsman Channel and legal fees of \$40K. He explained that we haven't been able to accomplish some of the goals in our long term plan because of the negative variance for this year.

RULES COMMITTEE

Paul Gebhardt noted that there had been a lengthy teleconference last night regarding two way communication devices. He explained that by the May meeting, the rules committee will put together a rewrite of rule #35 to allow for two way communication devices but it will be written so it doesn't include using them for commercial use of footage. He explained that the Rules Committee was in unanimous agreement of allowing use of cell phones and other two way communication devices.

He noted they had talked a little about trailers and some of the mushers didn't like the appearance of dogs being carried in the trailers, but Gebhardt explained that this was the safest way to carry dogs. Trailers also provide the ability to carry more supplies. He said during the discussion, that the Rules Committee found more positives than negatives about trailers and elected not to change that rule.

He said the proposed rules for 2017 will be ready to be approved at the May board meeting.

BOARD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Burmeister noted that this committee is due for a meeting, but has nothing for the Board at this time.

IOFC

Burmeister noted that at the finishers' meeting in Nome, the mushers were very complimentary of the trail work that was done this year. He noted that they still want to see trail markers on the coast on the upwind side of the trail rather than the downwind side.

He also noted that mushers in checkpoints couldn't always see the printouts because of printers that didn't work and they wanted to be able to see those when they were in checkpoints. Nordman noted that there was a big chalk board in Koyuk with the information on it. He said he will work on providing a way for mushers to see the times at the checkpoints.

Burmeister also said the mushers had recommended that there be standardized guidelines for monetary and time penalties.

Another musher discussion point was in reference to figuring out how to get more law officers involved during the race to help prevent things like what happened this year on the Yukon River.

OFFICIAL FINISH LINE PROCEDURES

Jonrowe/Foo moved that the ITC would, in conjunction with the Race Marshal, appoint the timers and checkers for the finish and that the mutually agreed upon schedule be available at the Race Headquarters in Nome. Motion passed unanimously.

Burmeister/Jonrowe moved to go into Executive Session for the CEO evaluation. Motion passed. The board went into Executive Session at 11:49 a.m. They were out of Executive Session at 12:03 p.m.

Baker called the meeting back to order at 12:19.

MUSHER SAFETY

Nordman noted that he and others are working toward a presentation for the May meeting on this issue.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Mike Jonrowe: Good meeting. Worked through the domestic violence issue and input from people outside the organization is a good thing.

Stan Foo: Agreed with Jonrowe. Great Race this year.

Aaron Burmeister: A productive meeting. They were proactive with handling a sensitive issue.

Paul Gebhardt: Good meeting. Handled the domestic violence issue to the best of our ability and took the step in the right direction. Thanked Nordman and Nelson for a good race.

John Handeland: Thanked everyone. Not an easy meeting. Discussions were sound and we'll continue to address the issue of domestic violence. Hopes to be at the next meeting in person. Thanked everyone.

Andy Baker: Good job. Everything turned out amazingly well. Thanked everyone for their efforts. Asked that anyone who had recommendations for the Advisory Committee to let him know right away so they can get moving on that.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:29 p.m.