

IDITAROD TRAIL COMMITTEE, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Millennium Alaskan Hotel
April 26, 2013

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of Iditarod's Board of Directors was called to order at 9 a.m. on Friday, April 26, 2013 by President Andy Baker.

ROLL CALL

Members present: Andy Baker, Aaron Burmeister, Mike Jonrowe, Mike Owens, Rick Swenson (via phone) and Aliy Zirkle.

Others present: Joanne Potts, Recording Secretary; Mark Nordman, Race Director/Race Marshal; Stu Nelson, DVM, Chief Veterinarian; Erin McLarnon, Communications Director, Don Patterson, Finance Director; Eric Rogers and Chris Blankenship

Members absent: John Handeland (tied up with auditors); Danny Seybert (in London); Stan Foo (will be an hour late) and Joe Redington, excused and is on the trail.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

9.3 will be added for Rules Committee discussion. 8.4 will be added for an executive session.

Jonrowe/Owens moved to approve the agenda as modified. Motion passed.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Owens/Jonrowe moved to adopt the minutes of February 15, 2013. Motion passed.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Andy Baker had no report at this time.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Stan Hooley was ill and not present. The President asked for questions or comments on any part of his written report.

Mike Owens asked if the criteria had been set up for the Herbie Nayokpuk award. Baker noted that he will ask Hooley for that to be brought forward to the May meeting.

IOFC REPORT

Burmeister noted that at the finishers' meeting in Nome the mushers asked for 1) to be provided with penalty information from the race and 2) to be provided with test results from the drug testing on the

dogs. Dr. Nelson noted that he had a short synopsis of the information he had received from Dr. Morrie Craig.

A lengthy discussion followed about exactly what was meant by a “positive” test result and where the line is drawn as far as what results are reported. Nelson noted that the drug testing was so sensitive that there were substances present at significantly low levels because of what mushers are feeding, that they aren’t considered positives of false positives. Burmeister noted that the mushers are confused because it was reported by Dr. Craig that there were 25 false positives last year and the mushers are questioning what this means. Jonrowe suggested that there be an established acceptable level of meat contaminant that is not reported as a positive. The President asked Dr. Nelson to get together with Dr. Craig and provide a summary and a protocol report explaining about the meat contaminants and their not being considered to be presented at the next board meeting.

Owens questioned that if mushers are feeding the same meat, why do the contaminants show up in some and not others. Nelson stated that Craig had offered to test musher’s meats, which the mushers thought would be a good thing to do.

Swenson stated that mushers also want to know how long before the start of the Race they must quit using a prohibited drug for it not to show up when the drug testing is done at the Start.

MUSHERS’ REP REPORT

Aliy Zirkle provided a written report.

In addressing the Dorado incident, Zirkle suggested that she would like to see a press release in six months detailing the improvements that have been made to help prevent further such incidents. She noted that it is important to keep Drobny in the loop on what Iditarod is doing and Nordman was asked to stay in touch with her. Dr. Nelson noted that he had talked to Dr. Cantor, the pathologist, and Cantor did not feel there was a seizure involved in the death of Dorado. Cantor thought the dog had been biting snow and trying to dig out of where he was.

Baker noted that that suggested press release would be a good thing to show everyone what Iditarod has done and is doing to make for safer situations for dogs.

She noted that both banquets need improvements. She said the Anchorage banquet is too long. The mushers need to be the focus. She suggests that perhaps the drawing needs to be earlier before people begin leaving.

Regarding the Nome banquet, she noted seating problems and commented that staff, photographers and sponsors and special volunteers seem to get the choice seats up front and mushers are left to squeeze into whatever seats are left. She noted that many mushers were standing or in the bleachers because of seating issues.

A lengthy discussion took place on the Rainy Pass checkpoint. There is a lot of concern about fans and spectators there to see the mushers who walk through rows of sleeping dog teams. The fear is that a spectator will eventually be run over. The other issue was the planes that park everywhere and the mushers have to find their way out of their parking area by winding around airplanes. Nordman noted that this is a concern of the IAF also and they have been discussing it. It was suggested that areas be

sectioned off that were for mushers only and that a parking place for planes be found that didn't coincide with the musher parking area. Zirkle suggested that there be one person whose job it is to make sure everyone is in the areas where they are supposed to be for the safety of everyone.

Burmeister noted that there weren't many complaints from mushers about the trail. He said the Insider planes were a problem sometime as well as the trail from Iditarod to Shageluk. Nordman noted that they had recognized the same problem and that there were other machines on the trail that caused some of the issues.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Burmeister reported that there had been no interest so far in running for the board. He noted that Andy Baker, Danny Seybert and Mike Jonrowe had all expressed that they would run again for their seats. Potts reminded them that they needed to submit their 250 word bio should be submitted as soon as possible. And she asked them to let her know if they wanted to use the same photos on the election or send her new ones if they wanted new ones. Burmeister noted that it had been difficult to get the nominating committee together because they were all on different schedules and many were traveling.

Burmeister asked how Iditarod did on the Insider and Tracker this year. Don Patterson noted that the expenses were \$273K and the revenue was \$439K, so our revenue exceeded expenses. He noted that the expenses stay pretty solid so with revenue growth, we will continue to see increases. He explained that the revenue number included sales of the DVD and the tax credit along with direct sales of the Insider subscriptions and the tracker. Burmeister asked for a report on the Insider, suggesting that it will continue to grow if marketed properly.

Owens asked for a breakdown of the Insider/Tracker from last year and this year. Patterson noted that last year's Insider Revenue was 59% of the total and the tracker was 41%.

Burmeister commented that Schnuelle and Runyan were bringing people to the free website and maybe we should have some of their work that had to be paid for. Zirkle pointed out that we can't take anything away from the free website. We just need to add more.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Baker noted that the goal of \$1,000,000 from the state had ended up as \$136,000 and it went into the Iditarod Trail Easement budget. He explained that the Easement project is to make sure the trail is secure and totally adjudicated. He noted that if we want that to come directly to the Iditarod, they will change that from the Easement project.

VOLUNTEER RELATIONS

Baker asked Eric Rogers how volunteers were feeling after this Race.

Rogers noted that there was confusion because on the analytics it counted Willow as a 2 hour rest time, which wasn't really accurate, but he said the detail on the analytics was great. He said it would be super to add mileage to that. He said he hasn't been able to find a map with the land marks on it. Baker asked Potts to work with him on these issues.

Rogers also noted that Schnuelle's stuff went over like gang busters. People thought the Insider was better this year but they'd like to see more videos.

LINE OF CREDIT BORROWING RESOLUTION

Baker noted that with Rick Swenson's assistance, the Foundation will put the \$280K in an account that is making money and we can draw on that. The promisory note and borrowing resolution are in the board packet.

Jonrowe/Zirkle moved to approve the Borrowing Resolution. Motion passed.

DOT STATUS

Baker noted that we have a paper trail that gives Iditarod access for the re-start from 2005-2013 and granting us access to 2016. He noted that the problem is that if someone came in to lease that property we use for parking at the re-start, they would have priority and we could lose our parking. Nordman noted that there are ways the Iditarod could legitimately use that property if we leased it. But it would have to be used for IAF in some manner.

TRAIL EASEMENT

Nordman noted that Leslie continues to do a good job. Baker noted that the completion date is probably a year or two away. There is now the \$137K budgeted for that. Owens noted that he thinks the sooner this project is completed the better.

PENALTIES

The rule infractions and penalties were assessed by the board and all the penalties were upheld.

RULES COMMITTEE

Nordman noted that the issue of cell phones will be brought to the Rules Committee.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Jonrowe/Owens moved to go into Executive Session. Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned following the close of the Executive Session around 12:30 p.m.