

Iditarod Trail Committee
Board of Directors Meeting – **Summary**
Millennium Hotel
Anchorage, Alaska
April 25, 2008

A quorum of the Board of Directors was present for the meeting, which began at 9:05AM. The President stated that Joe Redington, Sr absence was excused, as he was on the trail. Several staff members were present, as well as Will Peterson, Chair of the Rules Committee; Leo van Scheben, Commissioner of the State DOT; Christine Klein, Deputy Commissioner of DOT; Ron Stroman, DOT; Byron Huffman, FAA; Donna Quante; Helen Smith; Eric Rogers; Bert Hanson, Iditarod pilot; John Norris, Iditarod Chief Pilot; and Iditarod legal counsel, Bob Stewart.

Representatives of the State DOT and FAA were present to discussion the use of the Willow Airport area for parking during the Iditarod Re-start. DOT, FAA, and ITC agreed to work together in developing an alternative parking area in Willow. Safety is the major concern of all parties.

President Burmeister reported that he received positive comments about the 2008 race, especially the musher tracking system on the internet.

Executive Director Hooley discussed the history of the Willow Airport area parking for the re-start. He reviewed the ITC financial reports and indicated ITC will need to borrow additional funds to meet current and future obligations. He indicated ITC is current on existing loans. He will be working with the Board Budget Committee on a plan of action. Hooley advised the Board that several sponsor contracts will be negotiated during the next several months.

Written staff reports were reviewed by the Board.

Jim Gallea, President of the Iditarod Official Finishers Club, provided a written report to the Board. Issues raised were: drug testing, musher tracking system, consider increasing the number of paid places from the top 30 to the top 40, and the amount of the entry fee.

Kevin Keeler (BLM) and Judy Bittner (Iditarod National Historic Trail Alliance) addressed the Board concerning the building of a shelter cabin between Iditarod and Shageluk. Main issue is whether ITC is interested in building and maintaining the cabin. ITC will look into this request.

Keeler discussed the minimum fee BLM (\$7,500 per year) will charge ITC through the permitting process for the race. For 2008, the calculated permit fee would have been \$26,000, but ITC can deduct in-kind and cash contributions each year. This issue continues to be a concern to ITC.

An executive session was held concerning a dialog with the FAA pertaining to the Iditarod Air Force operations.

The Board approved amendments to the ITC Bylaws with an effective date of June 30, 2008. The primary amendments involved the following:

- 1 Allowing ITC members more time to submit their ballots for the election of Directors to the ITC Board (ballots would be mailed to the members 45 days before the Annual meeting, instead of the current 20 days)
- 2 The IOFC representative on the ITC Board would be appointed by the IOFC membership.
- 3 A Board Development Committee was established
- 3 The effective date of the Amendments is June 30, 2008. This will insure less confusion for the 2008 Annual Meeting.

The Board discussed the limiting of the number of teams in the 2009 race. President Burmeister appointed a committee to study this issue and make a recommendation to the Board.

The Board requested staff to continue discussions with IonEarth on the tracking system and report back to the Board at its May meeting.

After discussion and action by the Board the **Entry Fee** for the **2009** Iditarod will be **\$4,000**. Rick Swenson abstained from voting and Dan Seavey voted against the issue. It should be noted that the Board will consider increasing the entry fee for the 2010 race to \$5,000.

Being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30PM

James F. Palin
Secretary – Board of Directors

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