

Iditarod Trail Committee
Board of Directors Meeting – **Summary**
Millennium Hotel
Anchorage, Alaska
May 30, 2008

A quorum of the Board of Directors was present for the meeting, which began at 9:08AM. 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, Donna Quante, Eric Rogers, Ramey Smyth and Bud Smyth.

Ramey Smyth commented on several issues, including limiting the number of teams in the Race; criteria for determining which mushers can enter the race if the field is limited; entry fees; proposed PRIDE rebate for mushers; the ITC musher tracking system; prize money; drug testing; and qualifying races. He also said that it is important that a very diverse group of mushers be allowed to compete to keep the flavor of the Race.

Bud Smyth commented about dog care; entry fee; enforceable and honest rules; and the expenses mushers have to participate in the Race.

The minutes of the April 25, 2008, meeting of the Board of Directors were approved with a couple noted corrections.

President Burmeister noted this will be his last board meeting, but he also looked forward to working with the Iditarod in a different capacity.

Executive Director Hooley provided a written report on the financial outlook (see discussion below on FY09 Operating Budget). He also talked about the status of the various Race sponsors.

Written staff reports were reviewed by the Board.

Director Seavey noted that Jim Gallea, President of the IOFC, submitted a written report on the status of their activities.

A written report was provided by the Trail Committee. They are planning some trail maintenance for this summer.

A plaque will be designed using the Herbie Icon to recognize those volunteers who have dedicated a large part of their life to the Iditarod.

Moderow reported that the Limit (number of teams in the race) Committee recommended to the Rules Committee that the limit for the 2009 Race should be 100 teams. They also recommended the entry fee from a musher who withdraws to be totally refundable to October 1, and \$3,000 refundable to November 1 and no refund after November 1. The Board approved this recommendation.

The Board approved a limit of 100 teams for the 2009 race AND will give serious consideration to limiting the number of starting teams in 2010 to 85 according to a criteria to be determined, with action taken as soon as practical in order to give adequate notice to the mushers.

A letter from the State DOT concerning the Willow Airport parking was reviewed by the Board. At this point, it appears funding is available to resolve the parking issue for the next 5 years.

The Iditarod Air Force issues were discussed in executive session.

A discussion was held to allow a 10% reduction in the entry fee for mushers whose kennels have P.R.I.D.E. Any action on this proposal was tabled by the Board.

The Board approved a few rule changes – they can be found on the ITC website.

The 200 Mile Siskiyou Race was approved as an ITC Qualifier.

Sign-ups for the 2009 Race will begin at 9:30AM on June 28 at the Annual ITC Meeting and Volunteer Picnic. Those who sign-up between 9:30AM and 12:30PM being in the first draw, those signing up between 12:30PM and 3:30PM will be in the second draw. Entries received by mail by June 27 will be included with the second draw.

The FY09 ITC Operating Budget was approved by the Board. Due primarily to the uncontrollable energy costs throughout the country and in the face of many other economic uncertainties such as insurance costs, federal regulations, and legal expenses, the ITC Board of Directors adopted a budget with a baseline, or guaranteed purse of \$660,352 and a commitment to aggressively work to increase the purse to \$1 Million as sponsorship and other projects and uncertainties are solidified.

The ITC Board of Directors is fully responsible for budgeted expenses, technological adaptation, and most importantly, the financial health and strength of the ITC and the sustainability of “The Last Great Race on Earth.”

Being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45PM

James F. Palin
Secretary – Board of Directors