

IDITAROD TRAIL COMMITTEE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
LAKEFRONT HOTEL  
APRIL 14, 2017

### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by President Andy Baker.

### **2. ROLL CALL**

Members present were Andy Baker, Aaron Burmeister, Rick Swenson (via phone), Mike Jonrowe, Stan Foo, Mike Owens, Paul Gebhardt, and Danny Seibert

### **3. Members absent**

John Handeland

**Others Present:** Stan Hooley, CEO; Chas St. George COO; Mark Nordman, Race Director/Marshall; Zack Steer; Race Coordinator, Dr. Stu Nelson, Chief Veterinarian; Don Patterson, Director of Finance, Wade Marrs-incoming IOFC Representative

A quorum was established

### **4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jeff Schultz - 50th Anniversary of The Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race - asks the President of the BOD to appoint a committee and a chairperson to lead the committee to begin planning for such an event.

Preserving the Iditarod Museum: Part of Article 2.1 addresses procuring and establishing a museum. Schultz asked the president to create a special purpose committee to safely secure the archives, build a museum, and appoint a chairperson to spearhead the process.

The Iditarod has to evolve and change, but little changes can add up to an imbalance.

First, there is a rumor that the ITC is considering permanently moving the restart to Fairbanks. If this is a rumor and not true, I would encourage the ITC to send that message out there and put that rumor to rest. The Iditarod Trail Race is supposed to go over the Iditarod Trail.

Second, the perception I am getting regarding the WTC (Which is a retail partner of the ITC), is that the sales people don't know much about what they're selling. At the banquet, a friend asked if he could buy 10 books of mine, and I told him they should be at WTC. I went to the sales person at the banquet and when I asked if they had the "Chasing Dogs" book that my friend was looking for, and the sales person replied "What book is that? The only books we have are on the stand."

I spoke with the president of the company about the incident and he responded that "We only sell things that sell fast."

He did say that he would reach out to the person who wanted the books, and deliver them to him, but that hasn't happened yet.

There is a rumor this year that Joanne Potts was specifically asked not to be at the hotel in Anchorage or the restart or in Nome during the race. From my stand point, Joanne is the Iditarod to many people. If that decision was made I would have supported an effort to put out a press release notifying volunteers and members why. There were a lot of angry people, and if they knew why the changes happened... well... little changes add up, and add up.

In 2015 the "Iditarod Trail Race" was changed... the font went from black to red, and the title changed to the "Iditarod Sled Dog Race", I doubt that anyone even noticed the change, but little changes add up.

And finally: the Rule Change regarding the use of cell phones. Some say Joe Sr. would roll over in his grave if he heard about this rule. I believe that Joe Sr. would stand up and pound on the handle bar of the sled he was buried in and say "Hell No". I believe this rule needs to be removed before more "safety rules" will lead the race down a slippery slope. Little changes add up and add up. Thank you for listening.

Mike Jonrowe to Jeff Schultz - Do you have any photos that were shot by Jim Brown (former ITC Official Photographer)?

Jeff Schultz - I have a few but I don't know who else does.

Mike Jonrowe - I think your comments regarding the 50th Anniversary are salient. With regard to your suggestion about an archive and museum, I agree. Dee Dee and I have personally donated a number of items to the ITC than nobody even knew existed. Preservation is very important.

The Fairbanks restart is only a safety issue. Fairbanks is a stop gap measure not a norm. The WTC issue you bring up is valid. The other issues you bring up are just that, rumors. As far as the cell phones, in my mind, the decision to open two way communications was a safety issue.

Rick Swenson-What's the volunteers' perception about the rule change to haul dogs on the back of the sled.

Jeff Schultz-not much... The only comment I have heard is "why the change"?

## **5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Andy Baker asked to move 10.4 (Hearing of Appeal) to 12 noon. Paul Gebhardt asked to add trail discussion to run the Southern Route in 2018 under new business (10.9).

***Danny Seybert moved to pass the agenda. Mike Jonrowe Seconded. Motion passed unanimously.***

## **ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 10, 2017**

***Mike Jonrowe moved to adopt the February 10, 2017 minutes as presented/ Stan Foo seconded. Motion passed unanimously.***

**6. President's Report - Andy Baker -**

- No report submitted

**7. CEO Report - Stan Hooley –**

- Sponsorship development is obviously a priority. This year we developed \$131.K in new revenue, but lost \$165.K. Our budget variance is at -\$84K.
- As we prepare for our next fiscal year, only four of our 26 sponsors will extend through next year's race. Three of the four are presenting sponsors which mean roughly 50% of our existing budget revenue is already committed for next year.
- We are now 9 months into our fiscal year, and our forecast is that we will be about \$56K over budget after cutting a number of line items during our last board meeting.

Mike Jonrowe - Our Commitment to the ITRF. Where are we at with that?

Stan Hooley - We are off \$72K.

Andy Baker - So we have to figure out how to bridge that gap.

Stan Foo - Moving forward we have to emphasize the priority of the \$129K annual payment to the ITRF. Increased fiscal discipline needs to be a very high priority next year.

Danny Seybert - So we need \$72K by June 30?

Paul Gebhardt - Where are we on sales of Rippies?

Don Patterson - The only option we have right now is to find an operator which significantly lowers the revenue we would realize. We are still trying to find a way to work with an operator in order to realize revenue, and it's projected in a line item.

- Wells Fargo reached out to us in the middle of the race. They want to combine the two lines of credit that we currently have into one (\$325K). They want us to completely pay off one of the lines of credit (\$75K) by the end of next fiscal year, which will require us to add an additional \$75K in next year's operational budget. Under the current scenario WF only has \$75K of risk. The ITRF is guaranteeing the additional Line of Credit at (\$250K); it's a very good position for WF to be in. We need to renew that line of credit as soon as we can to meet our fiscal commitments.
- Today is the last day for interested members to submit their application to run for a board seat. Interested parties have until 5 pm. The Nominating committee who will review the applications consists of Wilson Hughes, Denise Michels, and Stan Foo. The committee will forward recommendations by April 25. The make-up of the board, the dates of their terms, and what seats are up for election are located on agenda item 8.1.

Wade Marrs - Where was the announcement?

Stan Hooley - The announcement was posted online after the last BOD meeting under 'Board Meetings' on our site.

Andy Baker- I think we should hold our election for the board appointed seat (Owens) during the next board meeting on May 19. Mike has expressed interest

Paul Gebhardt - Scott Jannsen has shown an interest in running for the board elected seat currently held by Mike Owens.

Stan Hooley - We may want to ask the nominating committee to review the applications of the board appointed candidates in addition to the membership applicants.

### **7.1 Finance Report - Don Patterson**

- Written report submitted and accepted by the BOD with no questions of comments.

### **7.2 COO Report- Chas St. George**

- Teamwork with Fairbanks North Star Borough was great. The stakeholders within the Borough moved very quickly to accommodate us with regard to the restart.
- The Musher Banquet in Anchorage was organized by Thompson and Co. We launched E-Tix through Brown Paper. We also launched a new element that allowed for the audience to bid via a mobile app that pushed notifications to bidders via their mobile devices.

Andy Baker - How did that do?

Chas St. George - We did not meet our goal for combined silent/live auction, but we were able to reach out to potential bidders in advance of the auction, so fans not able to attend could participate as well.

- During the start we noticed there were a handful of ExxonMobil protestors there at two locations: one at a parking garage, the other at the EM hot chocolate booth. EM leadership at the booth invited the protestors to warm up in the tent and grab some hot chocolate.
- One of the things I noticed this year was that there is some prime real estate that is being taken up by folks who are not our partners and we need to look in to that for next year. We were able to receive confirmation from the Municipality of Anchorage that no booms or jibs could extend beyond the sidewalk, which prompted KTUU to have to move its equipment to another location, so we met our obligation with GCI to ensure that KTUU would not have its equipment interfere with KTVA's coverage of the race.
- Fairbanks Restart went very smoothly.

Wade Marrs - I think that staging ten teams at a time seemed to work well, but there were a lot of mushers that said they only had one person helping them because people

bringing down the first grouping of teams didn't have enough time to help the next grouping.

Chas St. George - That's good to know, thanks.

- We barely were able to go through placement of sponsors and media at the finish before Mitch showed up. Commentators did a great job in the broadcast I want to thank Mike Owens and John Handeland for taking me under their wings and teaching me how to stage a Finisher's Banquet.

Andy Baker - Mike (Owens)... thank you

- We saw increased viewership outside Alaska, but lost viewership inside Alaska.
- We are putting together a technology strategy for Rasmussen Foundation and asking for a \$25K Grant. All Board members will still have to fill out their contribution information again for the grant application.

Andy Baker to Wade Marrs - Wade all board members have to make a contribution to the ITC in order for the organization to be eligible for the Rasmussen Grant.

Mike Jonrowe - I did not receive my contribution receipt for tax purposes this year.

Andy Baker - What about the additional funds for the roof?

Chas St. George - The \$13 K for the roof will be rolled in to the technology grant for a total of \$25K.

Stan Foo - How does the roof look?

Chas St. George - Looks great- functioning well.

Mike Jonrowe - How are things going with a Tier 2 grant?

Chas St. George - Well, we're going to be in a better position if we get this Tier 1 grant.

Mike Jonrowe - Did the Fairbanks North Star Borough help with a grant like they did in 2015?

Stan Hooley - Yes they did. They participated at the \$20,000 level.

Mike Jonrowe - I didn't find the online tickets to be that easy to use. You couldn't print the ticket out on line.

Chas St. George- Having the tickets in their hand would be a much better process.

### **7.3 Race Director Report - Mark Norman**

- We're in the midst of putting the 2017 race to bed. We do have some trail projects that are scheduled for this year. Zack is coordinating, and if you have any questions regarding the projects please let us know.

Andy Baker - What can we do now so we can use the trail from Willow through the Alaska Range?

Mark Nordman- We are working with Dave Cruz and a number of others to look at how we can tackle the brush around the hitching post in Rainy Pass. We have a verbal commitment from IHTA for \$23K for trail improvement. There are technical areas in Dalzell Gorge that will take some engineering.

Mike Jonrowe - I have a friend who has done extensive work in that area as a helicopter pilot, and he has suggest we take a look at going around gorge to the left and get off of the side hills through those flats. It would take permitting and Cruz's heavy equipment.

Mark Nordman - I believe I know where you are talking about. There is both horse and foot traffic using that trail. It's a good suggestion, and something we will look in to. I also heard there may be a change in the alignment of the proposed gas pipeline, but haven't heard further regarding that.

- Nita Schwinghammer of Alaska Changing Together (ACT) Program did a great job of filing wellness reports from communities along the trail. I want to continue to provide support for that.
- Kelley Nuehammer spent a lot of time to provide analysis reports located in the packet to describe IAF activity this year. It describes the costs, and we need to get a better grip on those costs.
- I am waiting on a report with from Shannon Post regarding the Drop Dog transport from Galena.
- Overall I am pleased with the way the race went.

Paul Gebhardt - Mark, did you get a report back from Ruby.

Mark Nordman - You know things went well in Ruby. There was a lot more coordination. We added blue bags to fill with slop, and I think things went as well as we could expect. But, I am advocating for a southern route. Communities like Ruby have not had a break for a while, and we need to connect with those communities on the southern route.

Rick Swenson - Mark, if we can't go over the Alaska Range, what is the contingency plan for starting in Nenana and tying into Nikolai?

Mark Nordman - We are looking into that; I will be flying over that possible route this summer to get a closer look at the possibilities.

#### **7.4 Chief Veterinarian Report - Stu Nelson**

- This year we had 45 Trail Vets, 6 were rookies. I had 6 drop dog Vets on the trail, Mandatory screenings began Feb 6, under direction of Vet Tech Tabatha Jones. Tabatha worked closely with Kate Swift (Anc dropped dogs) and Shannon Post (Galena dropped Dogs). 1,463 dogs were prescreened. One dog was excluded because of abnormalities in the heart. Our annual veterinary training seminar was attended by me, all rookies, and 10 other Vets.
- 665 Dogs finished the race with an average of 10.4 dogs per team. Dropped dogs represented 32.5% of the starting field.
- Deacon - Cause of death - Histopath is not complete
- Flash - Cause of death - aspiration
- Shilling - Cause of death - cardiac edema
- Smoke - Cause of death - Hyperthermia - Effective immediately we implemented additional protocols including no coats, no double boxing, implement additional flight options, and ensure transportation mode included maintaining cold climate while in transport.
- The 2017 shoulder injury research study was a success. 65 dogs were examined. The research team will be providing the mushers of those teams with a report of their findings.

Mike Jonrowe - Who is responsible for dropped dogs?

Stu Nelson - The dropped dog program in the Iditarod is totally unique. Most races have road transportation.

Mark Nordman - Zack and I oversee logistics for the dropped dog transport. Stu oversees the veterinary aspect of transporting.

Mike Jonrowe - That's not where I was going. Previously, when a musher unfortunately lost her dog, we implemented a dog tracking program. I had a dog that I was looking for and couldn't find, called Kate and asked her to go into the spreadsheet and see if she could locate the dog. She said that they didn't have that program. That is a big lapse.

Mark Nordman - That has been addressed, and personnel have been changed. That program will be in place again next year.

Mike Jonrowe - I have a temperature data logger that can read 10,000 points of temperature on an airplane, if you want to use it during flights next year.

Nelson - That sounds like a good idea.

## **7.5 Education Director Report - Diane Johnson**

- Written report submitted and accepted by the BOD with no questions of comments.

## **8. Committee Reports**

### **8.1 Nominating Committee**

- Andy Baker - We previously discussed the deadline for submissions is today at 5 pm. The Nominating Committee will then get to work. We also discussed potentially expanding the

role of the Nominating Committee to vet candidates for board appointed seats. That should be discussed further at the next meeting (May 19).

## **9. IOFC**

- Paul Gebhardt announced that Wade Marris was elected by the IOFC to represent the organization on the ITC BOD
- Wade Marris - We (IOFC) started a Facebook Page. There are two items for discussion on the page for mushers to weigh in on with their comments/suggestions. My plan is to be able to bring to the board what the mushers consider important discussion points on their behalf.

Mike Jonrowe - Is it a private group?

Wade Marris - Yes it is.

Aaron Burmeister - And it is good. You should get a list of Official Finishers from the ITC.

Mark Nordman - Administration on the page needs to be aware of PETA.

Wade Marris - We watch it.

Andy Baker - Please bring whatever messages you have from the IOFC to the BOD at the next meeting.

Rick Swenson - What were the topics of discussion with the Mushers?

Wade Marris - mostly trailer sleds, hauling dogs, and cell phones.

## **10. New Business**

### **10.1 Status of sponsorship agreements - Stan Hooley**

- I touched on sponsorship status earlier in my report. I have provided a list of sponsors and when their agreements are up for renewal on page 52 of the board packet. As you can see 22 out of 26 representing about half of our income in cask revenue will be up for renewal in FY 18.

Stan Foo- Is this a mix of annual and multi-year renewals.

Stan Hooley - Alaska Air is a three year relationship. Alaska Gas Pipeline is currently an annual relationship. Anchorage Chrysler Dodge... we have not had any luck turning that into a multi-year relationship.

Paul Gebhardt - What is the status of our relationship after Rod Udd's passing?

Stan Hooley - We are still in the discovery stage regarding that relationship.

### **10.2 ISDVMA Communication - Stan Hooley**

- We received a letter signed by the ISDVM Board of Directors. This letter was prompted by a single incident with a Vet and a musher, and it looks like it has grown into a concern about how Vets are treated by mushers and not supported by race officials during the race.

Andy Baker - The outcome of the incident between vet and the musher resulted in the vet being asked not to return the next year.

Stan Hooley - When I read paragraph 3 in this letter, the author is citing that "several instances of veterinarian-musher conflict were identified and had resulted in very experienced and qualified trail veterinarians personally electing not to return to the Iditarod due to the impression that the ITC was not going to support their professional veterinary opinions and/or due to verbal abuse by mushers. This indicates a much larger problem than the one incident that took place in 2013."

Andy Baker - Stu, is that true, have we lost veterinarians?

Stu Nelson - I don't know of any incidences where that has occurred, of course, when people don't come back, they don't always tell me. I have a list of 130-140 veterans that I send out an invitation to, and obviously from one year to the next, my staff by far and above are comprised of veterans, but not all want to come back. I have worked very to build a good relationship between mushers and veterinarians, because ultimately that's how best animal care is accomplished. The musher's knowledge of their individual dogs and the Veterinarian's animal care expertise... that bond is extremely important. But, I'm sure that there are situations on the trail where there could be conflicts, and maybe somebody felt that their work was not appreciated, and decided not to return.

Andy Baker - But you're not worried that this is a huge issue that they're being treated badly?

Stu Nelson - This is the first time that I've read this letter. I'm trying to digest it all, myself.

Mark Norman - you take this many people over this many days on the trail, and not everybody is going to be happy. The Vet's work hard, it's not an easy job, and I would think some would be disenchanted after a couple of years. I don't know of any situations either.

Wade Marrs - I had my first incident with a veterinarian this year. Over the years I never have recalled an incident where I was rude to vets or volunteers. I did snap at a vet a little... but I did apologize after, so these things do happen.

Paul Gebhardt - When you look at rule 21 (sportsmanship) I have sat through 21 of Mark's meetings, and he stresses this point with emphasis. The only person a musher is allowed to get upset is the race judge... that's how the rules are set up. That rule is emphasized during the meeting held before the race.

Stu Nelson - I witnessed a situation where a vet and a musher were at odds with each other. I approached both parties and said... we're going to sort this out now... and asked

both to shake hands... settle down, and we got it sorted out. Had I not been there, the situation had the potential to escalate. While we are talking about this I knew that a letter was coming out, and I kept thinking about whether I could have done a better job of protecting my vets, but I believe that when you read between the lines there is an underlying message there that I haven't stood up for my personnel, personally.

Mike Jonrowe - I'm a huge believer in after action polls. I really think that each manager of each director/manager in the Iditarod should have a poll or questionnaire that allows volunteers/employees to share what worked, what didn't and ask for suggestions. Then you might find real problems that help us do a better job of solving problems.

Stan Foo - How important is this group and should we be preparing a response to the letter that was sent.

Stu Nelson - The group is the Iditarod Sled Dog Race Veterinary Medical Association. It was created to be the veterinary research arm of the race in order to promote the well-being of the sled dog. It is a professional veterinary association that is dedicated to sled dog care. I am still on the board.

Stan Foo - Could the situation described in the letter lead to a worsening relationship.

Stu - The individual that was at the center of controversy in 2013 did not show any interest in coming back. I made the decision after a lot of deliberation to not inform him that he was not welcomed back for one year based on the decision made by the Iditarod BOD because he did not re-apply. It was after he found out about the decision (2017) that he became very upset.

Andy Baker - I don't think we respond to this.

Aaron Burmeister - I think a courtesy response is certainly due. Every member of the governing body has been involved in the race.

Stu Nelson - I think that the vet should have an opportunity to provide his side of the story to the ITC.

Mike Jonrowe - I think a letter of acknowledgement would be appropriate.

Andy Baker - Ok, Stan will work on a letter, and we will figure out a way to move forward at the next meeting.

#### **10.4 Hearing of Appeal - Ramey Smyth**

- **Executive Session (12:00 p.m.)**
- **Board comes out of executive session at 12:46 p.m.**

***Mike Owens moves that the board uphold the decision made with the time penalty assessed by the Race Judges with regard to Ramey Smyth. Danny Seibert seconds. Motion passes unanimously.***

### **10.3 Drug Testing - Mark Norman**

- There is some concern with some drug testing samples. I would ask the board to give us some time in order for us to work through it. One individual has been contacted. A report will be given to you as soon as we have it.

Aaron Burmeister - Was it a musher or dogs

Mark Nordman - Dogs

Wade Marrs - So all of the mushers passed

Mark Nordman - Yes

Andy Baker - Next meeting we'll follow up on that.

### **10.5 Dropped Dog Tracking Database -Andy Baker**

- We discussed that earlier, Mark says database is in the Dropped Dog manual, so it will be implemented in 2018.

### **10.6 Review of protocols for shipping dropped dogs - Andy Baker**

- Stu talked about no double boxing, no dog coats, climate control

Stan Hooley - Need to add the new protocols to the Dropped Dog Manual.

Wade Marrs - Wasn't there discussion about the type of aircraft? CASA's?

Mark Nordman - I would say that type of configuration, not the aircraft.

Andy Baker - Mike Jonrowe and Stu can work on amendments to the Dog Drop Manual.

### **10.7 Volunteer registration and responsibilities - Mike Jonrowe**

- This has to do with attitudes at the starting line regarding a former musher who was shouting at volunteer security. I believe that we need a volunteer manual. That includes checkpoints.

Mark Norman - I think a formal volunteer manual is a good idea.

Mike Jonrowe - People need to have an idea of what their responsibilities are in whatever capacity they are volunteering.

### **10.8 Starting line security protocols - Andy Baker**

- We covered this in the last discussion. This should be a part of the Volunteer manual.

### **10.9 Proposal to travel the Southern Route in 2018 - Paul Gebhardt**

- For five years we have been going on the Northern/Fairbanks routes, through Ruby, Galena, and Nula to, and we haven't been going through Shageluk, Anvil, Grayling, and Eagle Is-

land. I don't know if it's written in stone that you have to go every other year one route or another, but I don't know why we can't go to the Southern route in 2018, and go through those villages, and get the people in those villages involved in the race again.

Wade Marrs - Since we went Northern Route 5 years in a row, why couldn't we do the Southern Route 2 years in a row?

Rick Swenson - If the board wants to go the Southern Route I don't see why they shouldn't.

Mark Nordman - Every year we don't go on the Southern Route, the trail itself is affected. We will definitely have our work cut out for us, but we need to get the trail back where it was in 2013. I am personally in favor of going. I know the IOFC is in favor, but we can't wait too much longer.

Andy Baker - Let's put it on the agenda and make an official decision at the next meeting.

## **11 Executive Session - Sled Dog transport issues with overheated dogs - Andy Baker**

- Before we go in to executive session, Justin High is here, and Justin would you like to address the Board since your dog had displayed symptoms of overheating?

Justin High - Thank you. The biggest thing to us (myself, my wife, and other mushers that we've talked to) we feel that when we drop a dog for any reason we should have peace of mind that the dog is going to arrive safely in Anchorage in the same or better condition as we dropped it. We got a call 24 hours after our dog got to Anchorage letting us know he was in the E.R. due to hyperthermia. We should have better control including the tracking database so our handlers are not worrying. We should be able to log in to a secure site and see where our dogs are if they have been dropped. Then our handlers would be able to be there when one of our dogs arrives, and sign a waiver so they can take the dog to my vet. I would much rather give my money to my vet to work on my dog than the E.R. And, I would be able to determine what next steps might need to be taken.

As a musher before two-way communication, we really didn't know what was happening. This year, I was able to let Jamee (wife) know, "Hey I dropped a dog, he has a sore shoulder in Galena, should be on his way." She picked up three other dogs before we were informed that the dog with the sore shoulder was at the E.R. in Anchorage.

If the tracking database is available to the handlers then I think the process of handing off dogs would be better for both the handlers and the ITC. If we have to pay to add that to the website, then I'm sure the mushers would help cover the costs.

The changes that were made to correct the problem... we need to make sure that they get in that book (Dropped Dog Manual) so it becomes part of the process moving forward. We are just concerned about what's happening with the dogs. Iditarod mushers don't want any more scrutiny than there already is in the media. I mean PETA was at

Anchorage Chrysler. Dog deaths happen, incidents happen, but we should do whatever we can do to protect the dogs.

Andy Baker - We totally agree and the tracking database has worked in the past, there was a glitch this year, but that will be solved. We will work on that manual to make sure the protocols are there. This is definitely a priority of ours too. Comments?

On a good note, our dog's kidney functions are on the high end of normal now, but he still has problems to overcome. Thank You.

***Mike Owens - I make a motion to go into executive session, Stan Foo seconds. The motion is passed (1:06 p.m.).***

- **Board comes out of executive session (1:35 p.m.)**

- **Board Comments:**

Paul Gebhardt - We went through a lot today. I guess we will go through the process in May, and fix some of these things. There should be a lot on the next agenda.

Aaron Burmeister - Great participation today, great event this year, and I look forward to the next meeting.

Mike Jonrowe - I would like to thank Wade for coming and getting up to speed, you can see that this is a big challenge. This was a sad meeting for me. I hate to see the kinds of issues we're dealing with. It brought up past memories that I hadn't thought about for quite some time.

Rick Swenson - I think between now and the annual meeting we have a couple of big issues to deal with and for the future of our event, we really need to get our finances in order.

Stan Foo - Compliments to staff and operations, and all the volunteers, it was a great event again this year. Coming back to the hard work we have before us the fiscal discipline as Rick pointed out needs to be a higher priority. Our intentions are good, but we seem to take two steps forward, and slip back a step. And also, welcome Wade, I look forward to working with you.

Danny Seibert - This is a very involved board, and we deal with tough issues, but we manage to work our way through them, and at the end of the day, we are more or less in agreement. We continue improving everything we do here at the Iditarod. So I am pleased about the direction we're going in.

Mike Owens - We pretty well have things wrapped up in Nome. We still have a few things to wrap up. Over the last five years or longer the crowds in Nome are getting smaller and smaller, and that's not a good statement for us. One of my suggestions is, if we could please; let's get the Nome activity calendar on our site, so we can let people know what happens in Nome during the race. One of the things we're working on for a

presentation to the city council is the number of volunteer hours we provide. Right now we are looking at more than 4000 hours in Nome just for the wrap up. These are volunteers from all over the country to help us wrap up the finish of the race. We couldn't do it without them. We are also looking at the financial impact of the finish in Nome so we can show the city what this event brings to them. For us, we really need to find ways to encourage the crowd in Nome to grow.

Wade Marrs- Thanks for having me here, and great to be a part of it, and I am looking forward to making a difference here.

***Motion to adjourn the meeting was passed unanimously.  
Meeting ended at 1:45 p.m.***