

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
LAKEFRONT ANCHORAGE HOTEL
February 12, 2016

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL Call

Members present: Andy Baker, Aaron Burmeister, Stan Foo, John Handeland, Mike Jonrowe, Mike Owens, Danny Seybert

Teleconference: Rick Swenson, Paul Gebhardt

Others present:

Stan Hooley, CEO; Willie Karidis, COO; Mark Nordman, Race Director/Race Marshal; Don Patterson, Finance Director; Diane Johnson, Education Director; Joanne Potts, Recording Secretary

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was suggested that the Executive Session be moved up to after the Adoption of Minutes and that the ITRF be added under New Business.

Seybert/Owens moved to adopt the agenda as amended. Motion passed.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Foo/Jonrowe moved to approve the minutes of the December 4 Board of Directors Meeting. Motion passed.

Handeland/Burmeister moved to go into Executive session at 9:52 a.m. Motion passed.

Iditarod Official Finishers Club (IOFC) Report

Burmeister reported that a lot of mushers have been nervous and concerned about the trail.

Iditarod Trail Race Foundation (ITRF) Report

Foo/Jonrowe moved to approve the ITRF line of credit guarantee which would turn into a loan if we don't pay it next year. Motion passed.

Jonrowe/Foo moved to confirm Gail Phillips' appointment to the ITRF Board of Directors. Motion passed.

ULTIMATE MUSER, NORWEGIAN DELEGATION

Hooley noted that the committee consisted of Mark Nordman, Rick Swenson and himself. He stated that it is important that additional mushers be involved and asked the Mushers' Rep about other mushers who might want to sit on that committee. Jonrowe said that if they couldn't find a musher to sit on the committee, he would do it.

STAFF REPORTS

Stan Hooley, Willie Karidis, Mark Nordman and Stu Nelson all submitted written reports.

A discussion was held about the possibility of giving the Idita-Rider something more and perhaps then making them bid at a higher level.

Hooley noted that it had been decided to have the Ceremonial Start in Anchorage and the re-start in Willow and said that should appear in the minutes.

Karidis noted that Wildlife Trading Company (WTC) is ready for doing business on 4th Avenue during the Ceremonial Start. WTC has a team of 10 people who will operate 3 distinct sales tents.

Insider will be launching a twice daily live show based inside the Lakefront Hotel as part of the Insider package.

He announced that Bri Kelly, of Thompson and Company, will lead a team of people for local and national coverage of this year's race.

He reported that Iditarod has been tentatively approved for a 100K grant from the State of Alaska DNR.

Nordman noted that the court case is going on now regarding the disputed land on the Iditarod Trail near Knik. He said the State is feeling pretty good about the outcome.

He noted that Andy Willis had built 80 new dog boxes.

He said he'd gone to Fairbanks and talked to Mayer Kastle. He said the people in Minchumina are interested in having that trail be an alternate trail for the Iditarod should we have to start it in Fairbanks in upcoming years.

Alaska Changing Together, ACT, that John Baker and Katherine Keith have put together, will be a good thing for the villages along the trail.

For judges, he noted that he's look at Gilbert Huntington, Matt Bergman, Kevin Saiki, Jim Gallea, Andy Angstman, Greg Parvin, Jim Davis and Warren Palfrey. He'll have the list firmed up soon.

DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

Mike Owens: Looking forward to another good race and excited about being back on the Iditarod Trail.

Danny Seybert: Excited about the Anchorage Start and Willow Re-Start.

Stan Foo: Excited about the trail and appreciates Mark's efforts with the challenges that have been there.

Mike Jonrowe – Echoed everything everyone else has said. Should be a good race. Appreciates that work Mark and his crew have done.

John Handeland: Glad the snow is cooperating and thanks to Mark and others for working to have a safe trail for the dogs and mushers. Thanked Willie and Stan for coming to Nome. Noted that Chuck Reader, owner of Safety Roadhouse, had recently passed away and now not sure of what the future of the Safety Roadhouse will be. Thanked Mitch Erikson for all his years as banquet coordinator and thinks Julia Harris will do a great job. He noted that if there will be any special visitors at the finish line, they need to know in advance. Talked about a major high speed fiber optic project to be available by March of 2017.

Aaron Burmeister: Excited to have 100% participation today. Sounds like it will be a great race and thanked the staff for hard work in getting ready.

Rick Swenson: Thanked everyone for their hard work and is looking forward to a great race.

Paul Gebhardt: Thanked Mark for the good trail report and happy that the race will go on the traditional route.

Andy Baker: Have a good time and thanked everyone for a good meeting.

Burmeister/Owens moved to adjourn at 10:47. Motion passed.