

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
IDITAROD TRAIL COMMITTEE, INC.  
Iditarod Trail Committee Headquarters  
June 27, 2015

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Vice President, Danny Seybert.

ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Each person present introduced himself/herself.

Members present: Andy Baker(via phone), Greg Bill, Catherine Brooks, Forest Brooks, Aaron Burmeister, Noah Burmeister, Kathy Cappa, J. Michael Devitt, Teena Flemming, C.J. Glasser, ~~Joan Godson~~, John Handeland, Stan Hooley, Greg Hopkins, Diane Johnson, ~~Willie Karidis~~, Mike Jonrowe (via phone), Jay Katzen, Patricia Katzen, Nancy Livingston, Dale Myers, Sue Miles, Margaret Murphy, John Nagy, Maryann Nagy, Byron Nelson, Stuart Nelson, Linda Nervick, jim Paulus, Joanne Potts, Waneta Redmond, Danny Seybert, Elizabeth Schmidt, Larry Schmidt, Sally Smith, Susan Smith, Gaye Walton, Dorinda Wenrich, Rich Wenrich, ~~Amelia Wile~~

Handeland noted that Mike Owens was down in Florida taking care of his mother and thus his absence is excused.

Forty (40) people were present. The names with strike through were present but not members. There were thirty seven (37) verified members present.

Proxies present: Dale Alter, 1\*; Andy Baker, 32; Aaron Burmeister, 60; ~~Martin Buser, 8~~; Molly Farr, 2\*; ~~Stan Foo, 4~~; ~~Paul Gebhardt, 24~~; Vern Halter, 3\*; John Handeland, 4; Stan Hooley, 7; ~~Dee Dee Jonrowe, 4~~; Mike Jonrowe, 70; ~~Jeff King, 4~~; Denise Michels, 2\*; Stuart Nelson, 2; ~~Mike Owens, 15~~; Joanne Potts, 5; ~~Donna Quante, 1~~; ~~Karen Ramstead, 1~~; Barbara Redington, 3\*; ~~Ray Redington, 2~~; ~~Dallas Seavey, 2~~; ~~Dan Seavey, 10~~; ~~Mitch Seavey, 1~~; Danny Seybert, 7; ~~Rick Swenson, 54~~; ~~Cheryl Zachary, 1~~; Aliy Zirkle, 5

There were a total of 395 proxies cast. There were a total of 187 valid proxies. 147 proxies went to nonmembers or members who were not present. There were 61 blanks. Members who were not present have a strike through through their name and those who got proxies and aren't members are indicated by an \*.

One hundred thirty four (134) members were needed for a quorum. With 37 members present and 187 valid proxies, that was a total of 224 present either in person or by proxy.

Danny Seybert, Vice President, declared a quorum present and on behalf of the Board of Directors, welcomed the members and guests to the Annual Membership Meeting of the Iditarod Trail Committee.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

**Dale Meyers/Kathy Cappa moved to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed.**

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING IN 2014

**Kay Walton/Mike Jonrowe moved to adopt the minutes of the 2014 Annual Meeting. Motion passed.**

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Seybert went over the schedule of events for the day.

- 1) 9:30 until 2:30 – musher sign-ups for 2016
- 2) 10:00 – Annual Membership Meeting
- 3) 12 noon – Volunteer picnic
- 4) 3:00 – musher drawings

## ANNUAL REPORT

Seybert noted that there were more challenges this year because of the weather. It was difficult for mushers to train and qualifiers had to be cancelled. He explained that the Board has a big interest in keeping this race on the original Iditarod Trail and did a tremendous amount of work in the fall of 2014 from the Dalzell Gorge to Nikolai to make that possible. But the safety and health of mushers and dogs has to remain our number one priority and we have to be able to adapt to change. He said he is proud of how we adapted this year when we decided to move the re-start to Fairbanks. He noted that there have been a total of 749 finishers of the Iditarod and 18 of them are new finishers this year. Dallas got to Nome first for the third time. Despite the challenges, we still put on a quality race. He noted that he is already excited for the 2016 race.

Seybert explained that the Board and staff work hard year round to make things happen financially. Since 2010, net revenues are projected to increase from \$103K to \$143K. Expenses for this fiscal year are projected to be \$3.9 mil and revenues are projected to be \$4.1 mil, for a net of \$1.6K.

## ELECTION RESULTS

This year the membership elected one new director. Seybert invited Sally Smith to announce the results of the election.

Smith thanked the twenty eight (28) volunteers who came out at 8 a.m. to count 526 ballots that had been submitted. She announced that Rick Swenson had won the election with 258 votes and Dan Seavey had 256. She explained that they had done a recount before the meeting because the numbers were so close. The write ins were Vern Halter, Lance Mackey and Aliy Zirkle, each with one (1) vote.

## MEMBER COMMENTS

Nancy Livingston complimented Diane Johnson for her work with the Idita-Rider auction.

Kathy Cappa asked if the Lakefront (formerly Millennium) is still going to sponsor the Iditarod. Hooley explained that it's still the same hotel under the same leadership. They have just rebranded.

Kathy Cappa also asked what Iditarod was doing for the fire victims. Aaron Burmeister explained that we have been working hard to support the effort to assist those who lost their homes during the fire. He said he is overwhelmed with everything that has been donated. He explained that Iditarod wants to give the right way and have been directing donations to go to the Willow Dog Mushers.

Mark Nordman noted that we also helped coordinator the fund raising event at the Lakefront which raised \$25K that was sent to the Willow Dog Mushers.

Teena Flemming asked if Iditarod will re-visit the policy on the use of communication devices. Danny Seybert noted that the Board has had numerous discussions on this and wants to keep the race as traditional as possible. We will continue to think of what technology we need for safety and balance that with what may change the face of the race. Nordman noted that this had come from the mushers. They want that rule in there.

Greg Bill noted that he had just renewed his membership but he hadn't gotten a notice that he needed to renew and did not get a ballot this year. He suggested that there be a better way to note the need for members to renew their membership.

Bill also explained that the late Bill Devine had designed the Redington trophy. He said he had worked with a local sculptor to come up with the trophy with a few changes. He explained that this sculptor will do the trophy for \$2500 as opposed to \$10,000 the current foundry is charging. This would perpetuate Bill Devine's wish four times. He noted that this design was given to Iditarod and we have a legal right to it. It was not given to the foundry.

Seybert noted that there is a dispute and the goal is to provide this trophy at a more reasonable expense. It is something we are working on.

Jim Paulus suggested that there is strong support for trying to get some of the traditional sites back and Seybert said the board had looked at four alternate trails but thought they chose the best one because of trail conditions.

Gay Morgan-Walton noted that she is writing a book on Women of the Iditarod and will leave information about it on Joanne Potts' table. If anyone is interested in talking to her about it, she said she'd be around.

Waneta Redmond said everyone should visit Willow now (after the fire). There is tremendous good will there.

#### ADJOURNMENT

**Forest Brooks/Maryann Nagy moved that the meeting be adjourned. Motion passed.**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.