

IDITAROD TRAIL COMMITTEE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
LAKEFRONT HOTEL
MAY 19, 2017 - MINUTES

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), John Handeland (via phone), Mike Jonrowe, Stan Foo, Mike Owens, and Danny Seibert

Members absent – Paul Gebhardt

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, Mitch Seavey, Judy Bittner

A quorum was established

3. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mitch Seavey - I am here to recommend the Board consider adoption of the 2018 Rules put forward by the Rules Committee. I had the opportunity to sit in on that meeting and there was a lot of discussion and debate. I am also here to ask the board maybe through our musher representative if there might be any opportunity to get a clear feeling from the board as to a vision from a year out from now to five years out in terms of where the race is going. I feel like personally the board has been moving with some lack of direction, and if that's incorrect, I would just like to know where we are going forward. There has been talk about a \$ Million purse. Sometimes our shipping has been paid for... sometimes not. When its all said and done those little details like trailers, no trailers, in a way it seems below the work the board should be doing. I would like to hear why each of you choose to sit on the board. Why each of you holds a seat. Are you working on changing the demographic of our audience from 60 year old women to 34 year old men? Are you working toward a TV contract again? I'm just asking if each board member considers thinking about what they want to see this race become in the future. Please look closely at the rules... and give us a sense of direction.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Andy Baker asked to move Drug testing up in order to accommodate ITC Lawyer Robert Stewart for an executive session with regard to a drug testing issue. That teleconference is scheduled to take place at 9:30 am.

Mike Jonrowe made a motion to approve the agenda change. Danny Seybert seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF APRIL 14, 2017

Mike Jonrowe moved to adopt the April 14, 2017 minutes as presented/ Danny Seybert seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

6. President's Report - Andy Baker -

I will address a few of the points made by Mitch Seavey. The goal of the Board is to get the Iditarod Trail Committee healthy so we can achieve a \$1 million purse, and make it a sustainable event that can continue to go on forever. There is a lot more that goes into this event than the IOFC's concerns. The business of the event, the safety issues, sponsor issues. There is a lot more that needs to happen to accomplish the kinds of tasks that would allow for us to sustain more efficiently. I know everybody on this current board is committed to making the event stronger, and I know Wade, when you come on board you will gain a much better understanding of kinds of ongoing issues we face. I'm not going to push any member to share with Mitch unless you personally want to. We are all here for the right reasons, and staff too. Times are tough with the economy, but we just have to overcome and reach our goals.

7. CEO Report - Stan Hooley –

The operating plan we adopted called for net revenues by the end of the year of \$130,000 in reserve. At this point, with two months left in the fiscal year, we are forecasting net revenues of about \$41,000.00. We are over \$81,000 short of our financial reserve goal. We have about \$91K to earn in these next two months. The line of credit should be active soon.

The line of credit with WF is being renewed. There will be a bit of savings as those funds will be available to us at 3.2%. The negative of combining this is essentially, the old line of credit would be paid off by the new line of credit, and that will put an additional draw on our line of credit requirements. But it will be necessary for us to establish more financial reserves and not rely on the line of credit going forward.

I think I will save additional comments until we get to agenda item 11.4 (2018 Budget) until we get to it.

With regard to the election process, the ballots have been mailed, and they are already being returned.

Lastly opening day for musher entries is coming up on June 24, along with the volunteer picnic. We hope each of you can be a part of that. We have the annual meeting starting at 10 am, the organizational meeting of the new board following the organizational meeting, and that will be the first meeting that our IOFC member (Wade) will officially join and have the right to vote.

Mike Jonrowe – Is that ITRF payback coming up at the end of the fiscal year or calendar year.

Andy Baker - The end of the fiscal year. We ought to look at a bylaw change for the IOFC representative to be installed on the board before the annual meeting instead of this two-three month waiting period.

Mike Jonrowe- We can put the proposed bylaw on the agenda today in order to meet the two meeting requirement.

Wade Marrs- Stan you said that ballots are already coming in, is that for Aaron's position?

Stan Hooley – Correct.

Wade Marrs – Is anybody else on the ballot?

Stan – No, but we still have to go through the process, and there is the opportunity for a write in. There is not the petition process as there was years ago, but there is the opportunity for voters to write in a candidate as they see fit.

7.1 COO Report- Chas St. George

I wanted to briefly update you on the implementation of the musher portal on Iditarod.com. We are in the process of adding an ecommerce element so mushers can pay their entry fee online. The portal will allow mushers to fill out all mandatory paperwork online as well. We will start testing that very soon.

I provided you with analytics regarding viewership activity during the race. Social media activity has grown significantly and we are prioritizing our efforts to combine outreach to FB, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and other communities like Twitch.

An update on the Rasmuson grant... Mike Jonrowe, thank you very much for your contribution. Between now and the end of the fiscal year I will be reaching out to all board members to make sure we have 100% participation, which is the Rasmuson Foundation's requirement.

I have provided a brief update on Sled Dogs film in my packet. Any questions?

Mike Jonrowe – Who arranged for Patrick (Beall) to be at the opening of the film.

Chas St. George - We did.

Danny Seybert – Can I make my donation on the Iditarod website

Chas St. George – You can.

Aaron Burmeister – Twitch?

Chas St. George – We had this great opportunity late last year to livestream content to Twitch which is a very large gaming community on Amazon. The outcome was a great success, and we look forward to providing more livestream content on Twitch in 2018.

Stan Foo – What film festival was Sled Dogs a part of?

St. George – It was a premiere, and the attendance was about 30 people, which included a number of Canadian mushers. It will air next on CBC.

7.2 Race Director Report - Mark Norman

I did provide a written report here. We are going through a debriefing process with all of our coordinators, and key people. We talked last meeting about going on the Southern Route. I am sure that will be dealt with by the board. So I am planning on going to key communities along the trail to reconnect.

Andy Baker – Is your recommendation to run the Southern Route?

Mark Nordman - My recommendation is to run the Southern route for the next two years.

Danny Seybert makes a motion to run the Southern Route for the next two years and traversing through the traditional route through Rainy Pass. Mike Owens seconds. Mike Jonrowe makes a friendly amendment to add "weather or trail condition permitting." Seybert has no objection to the friendly amendment. The motion passes unanimously.

The Iditarod, with Zack Steer's lead, was able to get a grant through the Mat-Su Borough for \$25K. This is a winter project.

Andy - Are we doing all we can for us to be able to have passable trail through the pass?

Mark – I think so. As you will see, we are looking at going around the mountain. That whole area toward Dalzell is actually sluffing about 10 inches a year. The Donlin pipeline path is going around the Dalzell trail, which should provide a much safer route to travel. The State is amenable to allowing trail improvement without a permit as long as the trail is 5 feet wide.

We also have funding for a project at the bottom step. So there is going to be a lot of work this summer.

The BLM has allowed our fee to remain at \$7500. But for our next budget cycle we are looking for an increase to \$32,000.

There is trail work that needs to be done between Shaguluk and Ophir for the 2018 race. I will have more to report on next meeting.

7.3 Chief Veterinarian Report - Stu Nelson

I have included additional statistics for dropped dogs. It's pretty amazing with regard to the consistency of dropped dogs. This year 32.5% of the dogs in the field were dropped. Last year was 34% and 2015 was a real anomaly at 29.7%.

Top five reasons for dropping dogs is also included in my report.

Dropped dog program is under review. Mark and I are in the process of working with coordinators planning for 2018.

I still do not have the Histopath report on Deacon, and I am hoping that will be completed soon.

11.1 Drug Testing Executive Session (9:40 a.m.)

Stan Foo moved to go into executive session to discuss drug testing. Danny Seybert Seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Board comes out of executive session at 12:07 p.m.

3. Public Comment (Continued)

Judy Bittner – Iditarod National Trail Alliance – We work with various stakeholders including the Iditarod Trail Committee. Mark Nordman currently represents the ITC on our board. 2018 commemorates the 50th anniversary of the National Trail System Act. It was that act under which the Iditarod Trail 40 years ago was designated as a National Historic Trail. We are hoping that there may be some way for us to work with the ITC to create awareness about the two anniversary dates. I wish to thank the ITC for their collaboration on maintenance and trail projects. We look forward to working with you in the future. We will be meeting with BLM shortly to identify projects for next year.

7.4 Education Director Report - Diane Johnson

No report was submitted.

8. Committee Reports

8.1 Nominating Committee

Andy Baker – Nominating committee recommended to place Aaron Burmeister on the ballot, and made additional recommendations for future elections.

John Handeland recommended that the BOD accept the Nominating Committee report as presented. Mike Owens seconded. Report approved unanimously.

8.2 Rules Committee Report – Mark Nordman

Rules Committee submitted recommendations for the 2018 Rules. Those recommendations will be discussed during the adoption of 2018 Race Rules (11.3).

9. IOFC – Wade Marrs

The IOFC discussed polls that were taken with regard to recommended changes by the ITC Rules Committee. He stated that overall, the IOFC members who participated in the survey were in favor of the Rules Committee's recommended changes.

10. Old Business

10.1 2018 Race Route –

Per 7.3 (race Director Report) Danny Seybert makes a motion to run the Southern Route for the next two years and traversing through the traditional route through Rainy Pass. Mike Owens

seconds. Mike Jonrowe makes a friendly amendment to add "weather or trail condition permitting." Seybert has no objection to the friendly amendment. The motion passes unanimously.

11. New Business

11.1 Drug Testing –

ITC Legal Counsel, Bob Stewart, was not able to attend in order to brief the Board. The briefing was tabled until Mr. Stewart is available to provide his report.

11.2 Appointment of Directors to seats –

The Board unanimously voted to appoint Mike Owens for an additional term on the ITC Board of Directors.

The Board also voted to appoint Wade Marris (2018 IOFC President) on the ITC Board of Directors beginning June 24, 2017.

11.3 Adoption of Race Rules, 2018 – Wade Marris/Mark Nordman

2018 Rules Committee recommended the following changes:

Rule 1 – Paragraph 1 – add Bullet: "Any Iditarod or Yukon Quest Veteran with three or more consecutive scratches or withdrawals must re-qualify to the same standards as a rookie before entry will be accepted. This shall include completion of required finish standards in approved qualifier races within the past three years and a new musher reference. The musher may only use one Iditarod or Yukon Quest attempt counting as a qualifier race." **Strengthen application criteria for veteran mushers with poor recent performance. 2017 race had 4 "veteran" mushers sign up with 3+ consecutive Iditarod scratches.**

Rule 1 – Paragraph 3 – Amend to: "...meet within 30 days of sign up and thereafter monthly." **QRB needs more time to meet and deliberate right after sign ups.**

Rule 1 – Paragraph 3 – Add second bullet: "All entries shall be considered accepted within 30 days. Within those 30 days, the QRB may decide to reject an entry, or impose additional qualification criteria. In the case of additional qualification criteria being required, mushers shall have 30 days from notification to either withdraw their entry with full refund or accept the QRB decision and proceed with regular ITC deadlines." **QRB needs authority to add additional qualification criteria and clear explanation regarding entry refunds for said mushers.**

Rule 1 – Paragraph 4 – Bullet 1 - Amend to: "Races wishing to become approved as a qualifier must apply to Iditarod prior to August 31. As part of the application, races must state the qualification of the race organizational committee as well as what experience mushers competing in said race may gain in their preparation for Iditarod. The ITC Rules Committee shall perform an annual review of all qualifiers during its Fall meeting, no later than September 30."

More practical timeline for races wishing to be considered as Qualifiers. Allow for more diverse Qualifier races, not necessarily duplicate to Iditarod Rules.

Rule 1 – Paragraph 4 – Bullet 4: Delete: "since 2010" **Simplify and condense**

Rule 2 – Paragraph 3 – Amend to read: "Entries postmarked after June 25 in person or by mail will be entered in the second drawing." Delete the rest of paragraph 3. **Simplify and condense.**

Rule 2 – Paragraph 4 – add to list regarding entry is complete when: "...all outstanding fines are paid, any penalties or censures are complete, any legal action between the musher and ITC is resolved, ..." **Clarification**

Rule 2 – Paragraph 8 – Delete entire paragraph: "Short explanation..." **Simplify and condense**

Rule 13 – Paragraph 2 – Amend first sentence to read: "A musher must take one mandatory twenty-four (24) hour stop at an official checkpoint during the race." **Clarification**

Rule 13 – Paragraph 2 – Delete the second sentence: "The twenty-four (24) hour stop may be taken at the musher's option at a time most beneficial to the dogs." **Simplify and condense**

Rule 17 – Paragraph 1 – Delete last sentence "All dogs must be..." and replace with: "Upon arrival at a checkpoint and as part of the check-in procedure, mushers must announce to the checker the total number of dogs in their team including dogs on the towline, inside their sled bag and any dogs carried within an enclosure not readily visible. A checker, race official or race veterinarian may request that mushers visibly produce all dogs for verification before the check is complete." **Simplify typical checkpoint check-in procedure, especially with dogs in sleds and trailers.**

Rule 18 – Paragraph 1 – Amend second sentence to read: "Dogs demonstrating aggressive behavior and deemed by the Race Marshal to be a risk to other people or dogs will be withdrawn from the race." **Stricter enforcement of aggressive and dangerous dogs.**

Rule 39 – Paragraph 2 – Amend to read: "Megesterol acetate (Ovaban) is permitted for use as an estrus suppressant. Newer products may become available that are approved for use in the USA, and may be allowed by the Chief Veterinarian" **Updated veterinary protocol**

Rule 45 – Paragraph 1 – Delete: "...and a reliable chain or cable, drop cable issued by the ITC, ..." **Vets and checkers will now use ITC-provided standard drop cables. Musher no longer responsible to carry drop cables.**

Rule 45 – Add new paragraph: "Before dropping a dog, mushers must remove all gear (harness, booties, leggings, etc.) except for the dog collar. Dogs may be left with dog coats, but the coats will be removed for dog transit and will become property of Iditarod with no guarantee of return to the musher." **Dogs can only be dropped with collar (mandatory) and coat (optional).**

Danny Seybert moved to approve the above recommended changes. Stan Foo seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Rule 15 - Sled: A musher has a choice of sled subject to the requirement that some type of sled or toboggan must be drawn. The sled or toboggan must be capable of hauling any injured

or fatigued dogs under cover, plus equipment and food. Braking devices must be constructed to fit between the runners and not to extend beyond the tails of the runners. No more than three (3) sleds can be used by a musher during the race after the re-start. No more than two (2) sleds can be shipped beyond the re-start. Should a musher use another musher's sled for any reason that will be considered one (1) of the three (3) allowable sleds. These sleds may be used at the musher's discretion. Sleds or mushers may not be assisted with sails or wheels. Ski poles are allowed. No other sled exchanges are permitted except that a sled damaged beyond repair may be replaced if approved by an official. Once a sled has been left behind, it cannot be transported along the trail. It cannot be used again unless approved by the Race Marshal as a replacement for a broken sled. One trailer may be drawn and is to be considered one of the three (3) allowable sleds.

The Rules Committee made the follow recommendation for Rule 15:

Rule 15 – Rewrite entire rule to read as follows: "A sled capable of hauling any injured or fatigued dogs under cover, plus equipment and food, must be drawn. Sleds must have braking devices that fit between the runners and not extend beyond the runner tails. No more than three (3) sleds can be used by a musher during the race after the re-start. No more than two (2) sleds can be shipped beyond the re-start. Should a musher use another musher's sled for any reason, that sled will be considered one (1) of the three (3) allowable sleds. No other sled exchanges are permitted except that a sled damaged beyond repair may be replaced if approved by an official. Once a sled has been left behind, it cannot be transported along the trail. It cannot be used again unless approved by the Race Marshal as a replacement for a broken sled. Sleds or mushers may not be assisted with sails or wheels. Ski poles are allowed. One trailer may be drawn and is to be considered one of the three (3) allowable sleds. All trailers used for dog transport must be designed for safe and humane carriage. Trailers shall not exceed six (6) feet in length and shall not have any width wider than the exterior measurement of the runners on the main sled. Trailers must be designed not to interfere or cause safety hazards with other teams during trail passing situations. The Race Marshal shall have final say on trailers deemed to be inappropriate or unsafe."

A motion was made by Mike Jonrowe to accept the Rules Committee recommendation. Danny Seybert seconded. Jonrowe, Seybert, and Foo voted in favor of the rule change. Owens, Swenson, Handeland and Burmeister voted against. Rule 15 remains as written.

Rule 16 - Mandatory Items: A musher must have with him/her ~~in the front sled~~, at all times the following items:

Danny Seybert makes a motion to make one minor change to rule 16 to allow mandatory gear to be hauled anywhere, and strike ~~in the front sled~~. Burmeister, Foo, Jonrowe, Seybert, and Owens vote in favor. Swenson and Handeland vote against the motion. The motion passes.

Rule 35 - Electronic Devices: A musher may carry and use any two-way communication device(s), including, but not necessarily limited to, a cell and/or satellite telephone. Use of such devices may not be used for any media purposes during the course of the race unless expressly approved in advance by ITC.

A musher may also carry an emergency locator transmitter (ELT), a Spot™, or other similar satellite tracking device. However, activation of any help or emergency signal, including accidental activation, may make a musher ineligible to continue and may result in an automatic withdrawal from the race. Use of a GPS is also permitted.

The Board weighed the Rules Committee's recommendation to reverse the existing Rule 35 to read: "The use of all two-way electronic communication devices is prohibited. This prohibition does not include any electronic communication devices supplied by Iditarod for the purpose of the race."

Mike Jonrowe made a motion to approve the rule change as recommended by the Rules Committee. Mike Owens Seconded.

Jonrowe and Owens voted in favor. Burmeister, Seybert, Handeland, Foo, and Swenson voted against changing Rule 35. Rule 35 remains as written.

Rule 46 -- Hauling Dogs: A musher may haul dogs in the front sled only at his/her discretion, however, the musher may not allow any of the dogs to be hauled by another team. Dogs must be hauled in a humane fashion and must be covered if conditions require, at the Race Marshal's discretion.

The Board discussed the Rules Committee's recommendation: Rule 46 – Paragraph 1 – Amend to read: "Dogs must be hauled in a humane fashion and must be covered if conditions require, at the Race Marshal's discretion. The musher may not allow any of the dogs to be hauled by another team."

Swenson moves that a musher can't haul dogs unless they are going to be dropped at the next checkpoint. Owens seconds. Owens adds a friendly amendment that a dog could continue on if a veterinarian deems the dog healthy enough to stay with the team.

Swenson, Handeland and Owens vote to approve the friendly amendment. Foo, Seybert, Burmeister, Jonrowe vote against the friendly amendment. The friendly amendment does not pass.

Andy Baker calls for a vote on the original motion by Swenson. Swenson, Handeland and Owens vote in favor. Burmeister, Foo, Jonrowe, and Seybert vote against the motion. The motion does not pass.

Danny Seybert makes a motion to accept Rule 46 the way it is written. Foo seconds. Swenson makes a friendly amendment to change the first sentence of Rule 46 to "A musher can only carry dogs in front of his/her racing sled's handle bars." The motion, with the friendly amendment, is approved.

11.4 Adoption of Operating Budget – Tabled until Wednesday, June 14 (time to be determined).

The meeting was adjourned at 2:53 pm