

IDITAROD TRAIL COMMITTEE, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Millennium Alaskan Hotel
Anchorage Alaska
October 18, 2013

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Members present: Andy Baker, Aaron Burmeister, Stan Foo, Mike Jonrowe, Danny Seybert, Rick Swenson (via phone) and Aliy Zirkle

Members absent: John Handeland, Mike Owens and Joe Redington, Sr.

The President noted that Joe Redington's absence is excused. He is on the trail.

Others present: Stan Hooley, Executive Director; Mark Nordman, Race Director/Race Marshal; Don Patterson, Finance Director; Stuart Nelson, DVM, Chief Veterinarian; and Joanne Potts, Recording Secretary

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Seybert asked to add an Executive Session on staffing. Baker agreed to have that Executive Session at the latest at 11 a.m.

It was moved seconded and passed that the Agenda as amended by approved.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Jonrowe/Zirkle moved to approve the minutes of May 24 and June 29. Motion passed.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Hooley presented a written report.

He noted that 56 teams are currently entered in the 2014 race and we expect about the same number we had last year.

He noted that the raffle tickets sold out earlier than usual, partly due to the use of the Internet. He explained that currently about 70% of the tickets are sold to people out of state. It didn't use to be that way. He noted that if we ever lose the ability to use the Internet to sell tickets, we will have to figure out how to generate more interest in Alaskans.

Hooley noted that the Alternative Highway Corridor, formally known as the Wasilla Bypass project, is back in the talking stage. He said it is likely to be as many as 10 years down the road before it actually happens, but one of the most talked about corridors dissects the property Iditarod is currently residing on. He said it is on the horizon and we need to plan for it.

Hooley explained that IonEarth is no longer in business. He explained that E10 is now developing the "fan view" for the tracking.

He explained that he is also talking to SPOT. He explained that he advocated moving ahead with SPOT. We'd be pulling data our own data to populate the website, different from the data coming from IonEarth when using their trackers.

The question came up about whether ITC could sell the program to other races to help defray the costs. Then it was thought that if we wanted this to be uniquely Iditarod's, Iditarod should retain the program.

FINANCIAL FORECAST

Hooley noted that the detail is all in the board packet. He said right now the assumption is that we will finish the year with \$116 K over what was budgeted for net revenues. He also noted this calls for an increase of \$250 K in new sponsors revenues. When asked if he was comfortable counting on that increase, he noted that he felt we would at least be close to that.

He also noted that the tracking will coming in substantially less than before. The cost of the units is less than that for the trackers and the cost for the data feed is less.

He asked board members to feel free to call if they have questions.

Hooley noted that we lost a member of our staff this fall, Deby Trosper. He noted that we had arranged for her husband, her son and daughter in law and Diane Johnson to go to Rainy Pass, a place Deby loved, and spread some of her ashes.

DROP DOG PROGRAM – MARK NORDMAN

Nordman reported that dog boxes are being built that will house four dogs each. Spenard Builders donated the material and Jim Paulus is working on them now. They will all be cut out and ready to put together and Nordman will have a group of volunteers come together to do the final construction.

The equipment will be produced by the ITC. Each checkpoint will get two standard picket lines with quality snaps and be able to handle a minimum of twenty dogs. We will not be picketing with the dog cables that the mushers carry with them.

Tracking is being worked on. The vets will write the information down and pass it along to the comms volunteers in the checkpoint. Comms will have a program that they can look at any time and see what dogs are where.

It's been a hassle to get dogs from the checkpoint to the airport in some locations. We will have a tow behind sled with an open box to get back and forth from checkpoint to holding area.

There will be boxes going into each checkpoint containing all the gear needed for caring for dropped dogs. Those will go in with the first veterinarian and come out with the last veterinarian.

There will be a scheduled feeding 3 times a day at certain times.

Iditarod has committed to having the dropped dog area set up 24 hours before the teams get there.

In the hubs of McGrath and Unalakleet, someone will do a walk through at least every two hours and more frequently if inclement weather warrants it.

A manual will be produced that would go to everyone who has anything to do with dropped dogs.

Baker noted that Hooley will work on getting the program for tracking dropped dogs and getting the manual done.

CHIEF VETERINARIAN – STUART NELSON, DVM

Nelson explained that the protocol for treating *Echinococcus Multilocularis* was initiated about 20 years ago and at the time we committee to the villages that Iditarod would protect the dogs against that type of worm which would then protect the villagers. Bayer jumped in gave us Drontal Plus through 2012. We had enough left over to treat all the dogs in 2013 but we don't have any left for 2014.

He explained that all drugs to treat this type of worm have praziquantel in them. He reviewed the information on in the packet on the five drugs that are used to treat *Echinococcus Multilocularis*. He discussed the differences in the drugs, in pricing and effectiveness. He noted that Drontal Plus is the best and also the most expensive if we can't get it from Bayer at a discount. He noted that Roy Catalano is going to make one last effort to convince the people at Bayer to help us out this year.

Nelson said if that doesn't work, the Iverhart Max is less effective but Nelson feels that it will do the job. It has not been FDA approved and that was explained to Nelson that the company didn't want to go through the expense of getting it approved. He said he would feel comfortable using that Iverhart Max if we don't end up getting the Drontal Plus.

Baker noted that we would keep on trying to get the Drontal Plus but if that doesn't work, ITC will buy the Iverhart Max and distribute it just as the Drontal Plus has been distributed. He noted that if a musher wanted to use the Drontal Plus, he/she could pay for it and use it, or any of the other approved drugs, with the exception of Droncet.

Nelson noted that we would have to order the Iverhart Max by January 1.

Nelson said he had talked to the sales person at Iverhart Max and we'll push for the best possible price. Hooley noted that he would want to be involved in that conversation.

IOFC – AARON BURMEISTER

Burmeister report that he had no news. He said he is working on the belt buckle issue.

MUSHER'S REP – ALIY ZIRKLE

She noted that she has spent a lot of time talking to Page Drobny. Zirkle felt yesterday's meeting was a very positive meeting. She noted that the mushers are worried about the weather.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Jonrowe/Seybert moved to go into Executive Session on staffing issues. Motion passed. The board went into Executive Session at 10:03 a.m.

Out of Executive Session at 10:37 a.m.

IDITAROD TRAIL EASEMENT

Hooley explained that this is a follow-up on the conversations we've been having with the State. He and Jim Palin believe that the State should budget for the continuation of this project.

In terms of Iditarod's participation, there is ongoing communication with DNR and leaders in the legislature to fund the adjudication through an annual appropriation. For the project to move forward it will have to be funded by the legislature.

Baker noted that the problem is that it then competes with Iditarod in getting funding from the legislature.

ACTION ITEMS FROM PLANNING SESSION

Zirkle/Foo moved the following protocol for the dropped dog program:

- 1) Every checkpoint will have a kit full of all gear needed at the checkpoint for dropped dogs. That gear will go in with the first veterinarian and out with the last veterinarian. The kits will contain 2 drop chains, 20 bowls and other feeding and appropriate dog care equipment.**
- 2) Every checkpoint will feed dropped dogs at 8 a.m., 4 p.m. and midnight or more if necessary.**
- 3) In McGrath and Unalakleet there will be adequate wooden boxes for dropped dogs with back up being kennels. In Unalakleet there will be a dog inspection every two hours or more often if conditions warrant.**
- 4) A tracking system is being put in place so the dogs can be tracked by Comms from the time they are dropped until the time they are back in Anchorage through an Intranet program. There will be a master list in each checkpoint**
- 5) Race Marshal and the Chief Veterinarian will provide a manual that will be a reference on how to properly handle and care for dropped dogs on the trail. A draft will be available at the December meeting. It will be available to anyone dealing with dropped dogs. The name of the manual was discussed. A name will be decided on.**

Nelson noted that on the dropped dog forms there is a line for appetite and ask if that will need to be checked under this protocol. Zirkle didn't think that was needed anymore with the set feeding schedule.

Nordman noted that this dropped dog protocol calls for dogs to be moved within 24 hours.

Zirkle/Foo motion passed unanimously.

NOME PERSONNEL

Seybert/Zirkle moved that the official time of the finishers must come from Iditarod appointed persons.

It was explained that we need a more formal schedule on who's going to be checking and what time. Hooley will appoint a person to be in charge of the checkers.

Hooley noted that he we are going to insist on accurate timing then we need to be able to make that possible.

Burmeister will be talking to Leo Rasmussen about the belt buckles and will mention this after he has discussed the belt buckles.

RIGHT TO MUSH

Nils Hahn submitted a letter asking for support from mushing organizations for his Affirm Alaska as “Right to Mush” State Resolution. It is a resolution ‘supporting the protection of sled dog mushing in Alaska and to affirm Alaska as a ‘Right to Mush’ state and to protect the customary and traditional activity of sled dog mushing for the spiritual, mental and physical health of Alaskans.’”

Burmeister noted that the resolution in the packet is on behalf of the mushers and teams throughout the area. He is looking for an endorsement from the Iditarod.

Hooley noted that there is some pretty strong language in the resolution that almost makes it more confrontational than he would like it to be.

Baker suggested we could approve the resolution and change the wording.

Seybert noted that he is uncomfortable endorsing what someone else thinks.

Burmeister noted that he wasn’t sure what the goal of the resolution really is.

Baker asked this to be put in the agenda for the next meeting. He said we should take a look at it and figure out how we can best accomplish the goal.

VOLUNTEER AWARD

The letter from Claudia Nowak is in the packet. Nowak is a volunteer and Idita-Rider and is requesting a Deby Trosper Volunteer of the Year Award.

Baker noted that he has mixed thoughts – is this the best way?

Hooley said he is generally not in favor is singling out one of the 1500 volunteers, nor is he in favor is singling out one veterinarian or one checkpoint. He said this changes the motivation as to how they act. There are other ways to honor Deby, some of which we have already done. Selecting a volunteer of the year is not something he is in favor of.

Burmeister noted that we have the Herbie Nayokpuk award as a way of honoring people.

Seybert commented that it isn’t good to single out a veterinarian or checkpoint, but if this were going to be changed, both shouldn’t be changed in the same year.

It was noted that these are both IOFC awards and the Iditarod can’t make a decision about eliminating them. This should be discussed with the IOFC.

Burmeister noted that we don’t want to create animosity with the IOFC, but something that seems like a good thing often has more ramifications that one would realize.

OTHER BUSINESS

Zirkle asked about the Nome dog lot. When is it shut down?

Nelson noted that ITC has jurisdiction until 48 hours after the last team comes into Nome.

Hooley noted that we need to make sure someone is there if dogs are there. We need a vet to stay in Nome until that last team is gone.

Baker asked that we come back with more on this to the December meeting.

Burmeister noted that the heater never arrived for the IOFC sponsored conex in the dog lot.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Seybert: No comment

Foo: No comment

Jonrowe: Thanks to everyone for a good meeting.

Zirkle: Great meeting.

Burmeister: Good productive meeting

Baker: Thanked everyone for a good meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.