

IDITAROD TRAIL COMMITTEE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
LAKEFRONT HOTEL
October 28, 2016

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:08 a.m. by President Andy Baker.

ROLL CALL

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

Members absent: John Handeland, Mike Owens

Others Present: Stan Hooley, CEO; Chas St. George COO; Mark Nordman, Race Director/Marshall; Dr. Stu Nelson, Chief Veterinarian; Don Patterson, Director of Finance

A quorum was established

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Jonrowe moved to approve /Gebhardt second. Motion passed unanimously.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF JUNE 25, 2016 AND SEPTEMBER 7, 2016

Jonrowe moved to approve/Seybert seconded adoption of the minutes of June 25, 2016 and September 7, 2016. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Eight Iditarod mushers (Dallas Seavey, Mitch Seavey, Scott Jensen, Rick Castillo, Wade Marrs, Kristy Berington, Anna Berington, and John Baker) provided public comment with regard to the proposed changes in Rule 35

The majority of the mushers present testified that they wanted to see rule 35 remain as is. Several mushers provided proposed solutions to allow for two way communication in case of an emergency. They also shared concern that the allowance of two way communication fundamentally changes the nature of the race.

Board Chair Andy Baker told those who were in attendance that the board spent a lot of time discussing Rule 35, and said the board promised to bring it back for further discussion. He noted that the board spent an additional 4 hours discussing it in a work session the day before. He said that it was good to hear the thoughts of the mushers, before continuing on with the public comment.

Further testimony from mushers suggested providing satellite phones with protective seals as a solution, people/media contacting them while engaged in the race might create major distractions, concern about how this rule would affect how the Race Marshall would be able to enforce the rule and create an environment of suspicion, one musher observed that this is the 21st Cen-

tury, and cell phone use is prevalent. Restricting the use of cell phones is only going to get tougher.

President Baker told the mushers that the reason for this proposed rule change started with safety after last year's events (with mushers Jeff King and Aliy Zirkle). It's all about safety, and balancing that with the competitiveness of the race.

Board Treasurer Burmeister added that in his seven years on the board, and he could not recollect a time when one issue consumed so much time. Rule 35 has been taken very seriously. He thanked all those who provided comment.

Board Secretary Mike Jonrowe addressed the issue of outside assistance/coaching. He reminded the audience that even with the proposed rule change outside assistance/coaching is still prohibited. He reminded them that even though the racing community is a small one, it's incumbent upon them to report infractions when they see other mushers breaking that rule.

Vice President Seybert commented that in his opinion rule 35 is a good rule, but an unenforceable rule.

10.1 - FINAL REVIEW OF RACE RULES-RULE 35 COMMUNICATION

Seybert made a motion to amend rule 35 by deleting the second sentence to the rule so it reads as follows;

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 any such device for outside assistance (coaching) will result in disqualification.~~ 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 motion was seconded by Jonrowe.

Discussion: Board member Gebhardt reminded the board that the other option of going back to the 2016 version of rule 35 as it stands if the proposed motion is voted down. Board member Foo reminded the board that Rule 31 does address any outside assistance (coaching) would result in disqualification. Board member Swenson added that the board has discussed the limitations of using two way communications on the trail to include battery failure and limited connectivity and the use of two way communications could lead to a false sense of security.

Motion passed/Gebhardt opposed

10.1 - FINAL REVIEW OF RACE RULES-RULES 16, 17, AND 46.

Seybert made a motion to amend rule 16 by adding 'in the front sled' to the rule so it reads as follows;

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

- Proper cold weather sleeping bag weighing a minimum of 5 lbs.
- Ax, head to weigh a minimum of 1-3/4 lbs., handle to be at least 22" long.
- One operational pair of snowshoes with bindings, each snowshoe to be at least 252 square inches in size.
- Any promotional material provided by the ITC.
- Eight booties for each dog in the sled or in use.
- One operational cooker and pot capable of boiling at least three (3) gallons of water at one time.
- Veterinarian notebook, to be presented to the veterinarian at each checkpoint.
- An adequate amount of fuel to bring three (3) gallons of water to a boil.
- One cable drop line, provided by the ITC, for each dog in use must be carried at all times functional non-chafing harness for each dog in team and a functional neckline.

When leaving a checkpoint adequate emergency dog food must be on the sled. (This will be carried in addition to what you carry for routine feeding and snacking.)

Gear will be checked at the Re-Start and during the 24 hour layover for conformity to minimum standards as set forth above. Gear may be checked at any other time during the Race at the discretion of the Race Marshal and or the Race Judges. Gear may be checked at all checkpoints except Safety.

Vet books will be signed by a veterinarian or in the absence of a veterinarian may be signed by a designated race official. The musher will also sign the vet book.

The motion was seconded by Jonrowe. Motion passed unanimously.

Seybert made a motion to amend rule 17 by adding 'front sled' and deleting 'trailer' to the rule, so it reads as follows;

Rule 17 -- Dog Maximums and Minimums: The maximum number of dogs a musher may start the race with is sixteen (16) dogs. A musher must have at least twelve (12) dogs on the line to start the race. At least five (5) dogs must be on the towline at the finish line. No dogs may be added to a team after the re-start of the race. All dogs must be either on the towline or hauled in the **front sled only** ~~trailer~~ and cannot be led behind the sled or allowed to run loose. All dogs must be on the towline at the start and re-start. All dogs must be visually presented at the checkpoints to the checker when checking in.

The motion was seconded by Gebhardt. Motion passed unanimously.

Seybert made a motion to amend rule 46 by adding 'front' and 'only' and deleting 'trailer' to the rule, so it reads as follows;

Rule 46 -- Hauling Dogs: A musher may haul dogs in the **front** sled **only** ~~trailer~~ 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 motion was seconded by Gebhardt.

Motion passed unanimously.

Management/Financial Report: CEO Stan Hooley –

- 57 teams entered in the race at this time. Four race champions are entered, we expect more to enter.
- Budget report provided. Overall looking at a better year than last year. Still haven't realized a quarter of our revenue. This is normal for this time of year.
- Provided information on current balance, and credit balance with the ITRF.
- Sponsorship update – This year's budget calls for an increase of \$50K over last year. Renewal of one sponsor has yet to be determined which could result in a gap. Fortunately there are additional potential sponsors that we are talking to at this time.
- The ITC changed its brand designation on Pick Click Give to the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race
- WTC – Remote sales growth looked good. There is a lot of room for growth on the ecommerce side of the market.
- We lost Red Olson, creator of the original burlled arch in Nome. The family asked that any donations be sent to the ITC.
- Emmitt Peters had a severe stroke and is recuperating at Fairbanks Memorial Hospital. Mark Nordman spent time with Emmitt at the hospital recently.
- Recently the wind blew down our sign at ITC HQS. We are in the process of determining cost to build a new one... and funding opportunities. We will check into insurance for the sign.

7.1 Race Director- Mark Nordman

- Additions to the report submitted. Going to Shageluk and Grayling. River is starting to freeze. Snow conditions look good. Reports on Eagle Island... looks in good condition.
- We are still trying to figure out BLM permitting for the race. We are getting down to the wire. We found out that next year BLM will want us to do an environmental assessment of their land on the trail.
- Three people that scratched a number of times. We have informed all three that they will need to qualify in order to run this year.
- We are looking for more warehouse space.
- President Baker- Congratulations on winning an award for his work on acquiring straw that was safe for the environment on the trail. He also asked about the expedition that was being conducted congruent with the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race. Mark said that he didn't think there would be any problems or issues with the snowmachines that were part of the expedition with regard to the trail or the competitors. He explained that the expedition would be deploying out of Galena and would, for the most part not conflict with the race.

7.2 Chief Veterinarian – Dr. Stu Nelson

- Selection of staff has been completed: five from Alaska, three from Australia, one Norway, one South Africa, the rest from the lower 48.
- Mobile ECG program testing will take place during this race at the checkpoints. 6 units will be donated to us.

- Looks like we will have 2 permanent units donated.
- We have two studies that will be conducted during the race this year. One study will be on shoulder injuries, and the other will be on harness design in relation to positive/negative impact on the dogs.

7.3 Education Director – Letter submitted to ExxonMobil regarding deliverables provided to BOD.

Committee Reports:

8.1 Rules Committee –**Gebhardt made a motion to approve the five proposed qualifiers for the 2017 Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race. Burmeister seconded. Motion passed.**

8.2 Qualifying Review Board – Nordman reached out to two rookies regarding conduct in previous races. He said the outcome of those discussions went well.

8.3 Personal Conduct Policy Development Committee – The committee has met. They are trying to set up another meeting in November.

8.4 IOFC Report – None submitted

VP Seybert requested the BOD enter into executive session.

BOD came out of executive session at 11:37 a.m.

Jonrowe moved to adjourn the meeting/Seybert second. Motion passed

The meeting adjourned at 11:37 a.m.