

IDITAROD TRAIL COMMITTEE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Millennium Alaskan Hotel
May 29, 2009

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Lee Larsen at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, May 29, 2009.

Members present:

Aaron Burmeister, John Handeland (via phone), Lee Larsen, Sam Maxwell, Mark Moderow, Mike Owens, Jim Palin, Dan Seavey, Rick Swenson (via phone)

Member Absent: Joe Redington, Sr.

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

Others Present:

Stan Hooley, Executive Director; Chas St. George, Director of Public Relations; Greg Bill, Development Director; Will Peterson, Partnership Manager; Don Patterson, Finance Director; Mark Nordman, Race Director, Logistics and Competition; Andy Willis, Trail Logistics; Deby Trosper, Membership and Idita-Rider; Joanne Potts, Race Director, Administration/Recording Secretary, Jennifer Ambrose, Re-Start Coordinator; Rod Perry; and Eric Rogers

PUBLIC COMMENT

Rod Perry made a presentation to the Board regarding his proposal for a booth on 4th Avenue in Anchorage to commemorate the Centennial of the Iditarod Trail in Anchorage. He explained that he had worked with the Downtown Partnership and had gotten space to use for 13 weeks this summer. The cost is \$3000 monthly and he explained that he needed to find either three \$3,000 partners or one \$9,000 partner to be able to do this. He suggested Iditarod's putting a 13 ft freight sled in front of the teams out of Anchorage to sell to an Idita-Rider and the funding from that could support his booth downtown. He said he would direct hundreds of people to the Seavey show downtown and to Iditarod Headquarters. He commented that Joe Redington Sr. would be at the forefront in attempting to celebrate the Centennial and would not want that celebration left to the INHT.

Eric Rogers thanks the Iditarod for posting the proposed 2010 rules on the IOFC website and says he likes them.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was agreed to move agenda Items 9.2 and 9.3 up on the agenda immediately after the 6.5. In addition, an executive session, discussion of Rod Perry's proposal and Historic properties were added to the agenda.

Palin/Moderow moved to approve the agenda.

Owens/Moderow moved to approve the agenda as amended. Motion passed.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF APRIL 24, 2009

Owens/Seavey moved to adopt the minutes of the April 24, 2009 meeting of the Board of Directors.

Following a brief discussion, the **Owens/Seavey motion passed as amended.**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Larsen noted that he is disappointed with the time and resources that we have to spend on things that do nothing to advance the Iditarod. He noted that he is pleased that the budget committee brought forth an attainable and executable budget. He said he was pleased about the uplifting attitude from sponsors.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

In addition to his written report, Hooley expressed his primary comments concerning the proposed FY 2010 operating budget in his report. Hooley explained that the rate of sales, riders are seeing a downturn of about 15%. He said that others in the visitor industry are surprised that we're doing so well.

Palin/Moderow moved that the additional staff reports be accepted as presented. Motion passed.

A general discussion was held concerning the operational issues, but no formal action was taken.

IOFC Report

Seavey noted that he received calls from various mushers about under prepared mushers. No formal action was taken.

RULES COMMITTEE REPORT

Moderow noted that he had sent suggestions to the Rules Committee. The draft in the packet shows the changes recommended by the Rules Committee and then some additional changes and comments he made.

Peterson presented what the Rules Committee had accomplished in their two meetings.

Burmeister pointed out that he sees a GPS as a safety issue and that having a GPS will not make a musher go faster. He said the only advantage would be to help rookies know how close they are to a checkpoint when they are on the trail and considering stopping.

2010 RACE RULES

Moderow noted that adding miles in qualifiers is significant.

Following additional general discussion, **Moderow/Seavey moved** to adopt all changes to the rules with the exception of having a separate discussion on rule #29 (drug rule), P.R.I.D.E. and the entry fee amount in rule #3.

Palin suggested additional discussion on rule #11 that guarantees a purse of \$610,000. Moderow accepted dealing with Palin's suggesting later in the meeting, so holding out rule #11 when accepting the changes in the rules.

Swenson/Handeland moved to delete the note concerning the 2012 race.

Swenson noted that this year's rookie of the year would not have been qualified if the changes proposed by Burmeister went into effect.

Swenson/Handeland Motion failed. The note will be left in the rules.

Moderow/Seavey motion to accept the rules with changes except for rule #29, P.R.I.D.E., rule #11 and the entry fee amount in rule #3 passed unanimously.

Moderow/Owens moved to leave the rule as is regarding P.R.I.D.E. and ITC membership.

Following discussion, the **Moderow/Owens motion passed. Seavey opposed.** (P.R.I.D.E. membership will still be part of the entry fee.)

Palin/Owens moved that the entry fee remain \$4,000 and include two free insider memberships. Motion passed. Owens opposed.

Palin noted his concern about guaranteeing the purse.

Seavey/Burmeister moved to accept the purse rule as written.

Moderow noted that he thinks the bylaws require that some purse is guaranteed.

Following discussion, the **Seavey/Burmeister motion passed unanimously.**

Moderow/Seavey moved to adopt the proposed drug testing rule.

Moderow noted that this rule, as it now sits, is complete for the legalities. He noted that the old Rule #29 was an impairment rule that was passed to protect the dogs. He said the new rule refers to any use of drugs or any use of alcohol. He noted that there has been some talk about doing testing at the mushers' meeting because that is one of the few places we have all the mushers together. He noted that it is no longer illegal drugs, but prohibited drugs and then we turn the corner from what is illegal to what is performance enhancing. We have to decide what is performance enhancing and ban it.

It was noted that we need to have a legally defensible procedure for definition of random.

Following additional discussion, the **Moderow/Seavey motion passed. Handeland & Palin opposed.**

ADOPTION OF FY09 BUDGET

Palin/Seavey moved to accept the recommendations of the budget committee.

Hooley noted that the dominos will have to fall correctly for this budget and one is the renewed deal with Versus.

Palin noted that it will be quite a challenge to decrease expenses by \$282K.

Moderow noted that the loan payments are reflected as a line item and he asked to be sure they were reflected in the budget.

Swenson asked about purse distribution. Moderow noted that it can't be distributed the same across the board because it is on a curve and position #1 and position #30 don't change. Moderow will work on a distribution in several different ways and bring it back to the Board for approval.

Following additional discussion, the **Palin/Seavey motion passed unanimously.**

TRAIL COMMITTEE

Maxwell reported that one cabin is already up and materials are going into Shageluk for a cabin that will be built this year. He said Eric Rogers has begun putting together a Trail Breakers Manual. He will contact mushers in the Valley to have the trailbreakers spend some time working with the mushers and the dogs. He said he wants to work with Hooley to see about what sponsors might want to help with trail work for Finger Lake to Rainy Pass. He said there is no shortage of need for trail work.

Swenson noted that there are areas before the Steps where groomers could make the trail wider and Maxwell said that area is this summer's highest priority.

OLD BUSINESS

Deby Trosper provided a written report of the Membership Registration. She noted that the program and gone well. She noted that 1906 volunteers were registered.

Following discussion on the audit, **Palin/Seavey moved to accept the 2007 audit.**

The **Palin/Seavey motion passed.**

Following a brief discussion, it was decided to refer the proposal from Leo Rasmussen concerning 2009 Cachets to the Executive Session.

Following further discussion, including the suggestion by Moderow to refer this matter to management, **Palin/Moderow moved to table Rod Perry's proposal indefinitely.**

Palin/Moderow motion was withdrawn.

Hooley suggested negotiating with him for a price.

Palin moved to decline his offer.

Motion withdrawn for lack of a second.

Hooley noted that unless there is a sure benefit for the Iditarod, he sees no reason to invest.

.Motion to table was approved.

Seavey reported that he had spent three days at ITC HQ going through the archives. He said St. George has done the ground work with the University of Alaska Anchorage to archive our important documents. He noted that it is necessary to identify the photos of historic value. He asked for the authority to make decisions about what should stay and what should go.

Maxwell/Owens moved that archival decisions be made by two people suggested by Seavey and two suggested by Hooley. Motion passed.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Handeland: No comment. Thanked everyone for a good meeting and apologized for not being there in person.

Swenson: Thanked everyone for a good meeting and said he appreciated the good work of the budget committee and that he is happy with the rules and was sorry about not being there but was grounded because of hip surgery.

Burmeister: Noted that Peterson's Rules Committee did an awesome job and thanked the Board.

Moderow: Noted that the budget process and rules process seemed orderly and rational. Said he feels better about our product than in the past.

Maxwell: Been on the Board for ten years. Now feels everyone is on the same wave length. Noted that Larsen has done an unbelievably good job and hopes to keep him as president for another year. Noted that he can't say enough about Hooley's work.

Palin: Dittoed what everyone said and especially about the rules committee.

Seavey: Get will, Rick.

Larsen: Noted that he had visited with a gentleman about Planned Giving in support of the ITC. More information will be provided in the future. He noted that the committees have done a lot of work and we've come through a tough year. This year was not as financially rewarding as we had hoped. But he noted that it is incredible how much people commit to the Iditarod. Said he's looking forward to another great Iditarod.

ADJOURNMENT

Palin/Seavey moved to adjourn. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 4:49 p.m.

James F. Palin
Secretary – ITC Board

jp

Itc052909