

Iditarod Trail Committee
Board of Directors Meeting – Summary
April 27, 2007
Millennium Hotel
Anchorage, Alaska

A quorum of the Board of Directors was present for the meeting, which began at 9:05AM. The President stated Joe Redington, Sr absence was excused, as he was on the trail. Several staff members were present, as well as Milo Carter, Shane Goosen, Helen Hegener, Dale Meyers, Mary Pemberton, Donna Quante, Eric Rogers, Mitch Seavey, Scott Sloan, Bud Smyth, Cim Smyth, Ramey Smyth, Perry Solmonson, Bob Stewart and Vera Stratten.

Public Comments

Shane Goosen, a musher from the Knik area, indicated he had been disqualified from the North American (Sled Dog Race) for reasons having nothing to do with dog care. He was concerned that his disqualification was mentioned in a newspaper article that included comments on the disqualification of Ramy Brooks for animal abuse. Since the newspaper did not state the reason for his disqualification, it was the opinion of Mr. Goosen the readers would assume his disqualification was for animal abuse also. In his opinion, the Iditarod could have handled the alleged animal abuse by Ramy Brooks more thoroughly.

Bud Smyth, a musher from the Big Lake area, expressed the opinion that rules are in place, but they need to be enforced. He asked the ITC to get to the bottom of the Ramy Brooks incident and suggest leniency for Brooks. Cim Smyth, a musher from the Big Lake area, suggested it would not be fair to use Ramy Brooks as a scapegoat on this issue.

Vera Stratten, grandmother of Ramy Brooks, spoke on the devastation this incident has caused the Brooks family and she was confident the ITC Board would fairly deal with him.

Ramey Smyth, a musher from the Big Lake area, suggested the race needs to consider taking better care of the mushers.

Milo Carter, uncle of Ramy Brooks, urged the Board not to ban Brooks from the Iditarod. He also noted he wanted to live in a society where you get a second chance unless there is a very good case against it.

Aliy Zirkle, a musher from the Fairbanks area, noted that she believed Ramy Brooks will be dealt with fairly by the ITC Board. She wants the Iditarod to be a race that mushers are proud to run.

Jim Palin offered congratulations to all the mushers, volunteers and staff involved with the 2007 Iditarod, and especially to Lance Mackey for winning both the Iditarod and Yukon Quest in the same year – an historical accomplishment.

The minutes of the February 23, 2007 Board of Directors meeting were approved.

President Burmeister noted the trail for the 2007 Iditarod was terrible, but the race was still very exciting. He thanked the volunteers and ITC staff.

Executive Director Hooley provided the Board with an update on various ITC activities: current financial projections; made loan payment of \$100,000 to Wells Fargo; explained how some of the race expenses caused significant variances in the FY07 budget; almost 10,000 Insider subscriptions so far this year; and among other things, staff is currently working on the FY08 budget. President Burmeister appointed Lee Larsen and Jim Palin to serve on the Budget Committee with Stan Hooley.

President Burmeister appointed Sam Maxwell, Rick Swenson, Mitch Seavey and Mark Nordman to a Trails Committee. He requested a plan and timeline for trail improvements for this year.

Board members congratulated Chas St. George on the Emmy nomination for DVD prepared for the 2006 Iditarod.

Aliy Zirkle, vice president of the IOFC, reported the IOFC would like to see better trail markings along some sections of the trail. She also expressed concern for trail conditions from Finger Lake to Puntila – very little snow and the trail needs some major clearing in this area. She indicated mushers have some concerns about mandatory gear and mushers suggested that if it isn't enforceable, it should not be in the rules. She also suggested some sort of a bib number be placed on the sleds for each musher.

The Board to action in regards to the starting order for the 2008 Iditarod. The starting order will be determined by the draw of the mushers at the mushers' banquet.

Hooley noted the interim report on the University of Oregon (UO) Strategic Planning Project has been provided to the Board. The project team will be contacting the Board members and plan to complete their report by June 2007. A preliminary indication from the interim report is that we need to focus more on the animal athletes.

Max Lowe, Bernie Willis and David Pike are members of the 2007 Nominating Committee.

ITC will schedule media training at the June racer signup and the mandatory rookie meeting for the 2008 participants.

President Burmeister announced there will be a Special Board Meeting on May 18, beginning at 9AM at the Millennium Hotel (if they have space available).

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 4:50PM

Jim Palin
Secretary – Board of Directors

its42707sum