

DiscNW Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Monday, July 17, 2006

Attendees: Mike Schwindeller (Guest speaker), Mike Mullen, Chris Burke, Doug Coutts, Janna Hamaker, William Bartram, Barney Ahouse

Meeting starts at 7:20pm

Fields Advocacy

Mike Schwindeller gave a rundown of the recent Fields Advocacy Meeting notes.

- We are developing a plan to present to the City of Shoreline for the turf conversion at Twin Ponds
- There is an upcoming meeting in Georgetown to discuss the turf conversion
- There are renovation plans for Delridge, and we're trying to create a plan for the large sand fields
- We are working on a lobbying plan for converting sand fields to turf in Seattle
- Sand Point/Magnuson updates were discussed

DiscNW Committee Work and Volunteer Involvement

Mike Schwindeller gave a rundown of his experiences as a volunteer. He benefited from being able to try out a few roles before settling on Field Advocacy. He would like to meet more regularly with the ED to help redefine the role of the Field Advocacy Coordinator. Mike also said that it would be helpful to get more folks involved the Fields Advocacy Committee.

Mike Schwindeller spoke about how to create better incentives and compensation. Examples include discounted rates and better access to benefits. Having refreshments at meetings is a nice benefit.

Chris Burke said that it would be beneficial for Mike to get more involved with the Fields Team that helps to rent fields. Mike will coordinate with the Executive Director to accomplish this.

Barney summarized some important aspects of this discussion as it relates to improving DiscNW committees

- Being able to nail down the job description at first is hard, but it's important to flesh it out
- The individual will tailor the job to his/her interests & skills
- Having the title is important. Can we give Mike more authority?
- The job needs someone to make a several year commitment to be successful.

(Mike Schindeller leaves.)

Discussion of Youth Coordinator Role

Most of us had reviewed the online thread and job description. We started the discussion with the thought that this would be a half time position. There is a consensus that having an employee dedicated to youth ultimate is beneficial for DiscNW at this time. There is definite growth potential in youth ultimate, and there are not enough volunteers or ED time to fully expand our youth ultimate involvement.

How are we going to pay for it? Chris Burke proposed that we revisit the job description to include stuff about raising revenues. Mike Mullen gave a review of current youth work that he is doing involving camps, spring scheduling and concluding with an overview of the financials. Mike indicated that the summer camps are a big potential source of more revenues.

Barney Ahouse noted the possible downsides and drawbacks to any proposal. It's a financial risk that might not pay off in more DiscNW revenue. It could be a difficult transition for the ED to manage a half time employee. He would like to hear a deeper discussion of the challenges in bringing a new employee online.

William Bartram will redraft the job description and will circulate it to the Board for online discussion prior to the August meeting. Chris Burke will draft a compensation model for this job prior to the August meeting.

(There was a break at 8:30pm)

Vice President

Barney lead a discussion about our current lack of a Vice President. There are good reasons for wanting to have a VP of the Board. The VP can

- fill in for the President when necessary,
- assist transition to new president,
- expand institutionalized knowledge about current process norms and
- diversify practices & norms.

Job definition: participate in the monthly, pre-meeting meeting; draft agenda and get feedback; define final agenda and distribute; secure location & accoutrements, run the meeting.

So who can do it? There are a few candidates currently on the Board that will be considered. It is generally agreed that a new Board member could do this. Facilitation skills are needed. As we recruit new members we will try to identify possible VP candidates.

President's Report on BoardWork

As a group we want to get more done. Too often we talk about stuff and don't actually do it/follow up on it. One way to do this is to add stipended positions.

Board members generally lead one committee (more than one will be too much work). So, to help keep us on track and up to date on all projects we will add a President's Report on Board Work. We're going to hold each other's feet to the fire.

The reason that stuff doesn't get finished is that we are all volunteers, and so we often don't get as much done as hoped. Stuff will continue to slide unless there is accountability. Therefore each meeting we will request status updates on current projects – not full discussions of them, though, which would take too much time.

This task should not overwhelm the President, nor should it be allowed to take up too much time in our monthly meeting.

First example

---Request out to the Board Recruit Committee to pick up where work left off regarding formalizing the recruit process. Updates will be

posted by next month. Barney's goal is to get to 11 board members. Enough voices when folks are absent and enough folks to fill committee roles.

Potlatch wrap-up

This discussion is tabled until next month when we have more financial information.

ED Report

(Separate document)

August Agenda

Potlatch wrap-up
Communications Committee report
Youth Coordinator Discussion
Annual Meeting Discussion
ED Job description
ED Report
President's Report

Move to adjourn: Barney
Second: Doug
Unanimous.

