

SOD Board Meeting 2015-08-11

Present: Patricia MacDonnell, Richard Lemoine, Colin Rhodes, Ken Norris, Peter Daleman, Ron Howden, Gord Kerr

Absent: Connie Ohrling, Marilyn Suke

Called to order: 8:05 p.m.

1. **Review of Agenda** – add Zone 4 and club membership and Toronto ski show and SOD series update.
2. **Review of Previous Meeting Minutes** – Richard had already responded about Highlands being available for the AGM (yes). Patricia will update the minutes to be posted on the website with this information. Patricia reminded everyone that these minutes are put on-line so we need to be sure that everything is OK for public consumption. Moved by Richard to accept the minutes. Seconded by Ken. Carried.
3. **Action Items from last meeting** – Larry Sinclair coaching award: Richard has not had an opportunity to speak with the Sinclair's yet due to summer schedules. He will contact Pat when she returns from her conference. Patricia will investigate NCD fee structure for next meeting. SOD athlete support at Ontario Cups: Colin has written up a bid process but still needs to know bid submission deadline and who will evaluate the bids. Colin suggests end of September for a submission deadline which Patricia felt would be too soon so end of October was suggested. Ron will evaluate the bids and run his decision by Richard for a second opinion.
4. **Club Survey** (Marilyn): Marilyn not on the call yet. Colin has sent ideas to her but hasn't heard anything. If Marilyn doesn't join the call, Patricia will contact Marilyn.
5. **Report on Coaches Conference** (Ron): Went really well. Justin did an outstanding job. Concepts being used by National team introduced. Supportive of all levels of coaches. Jack did a good presentation. Ryan Jackson did a presentation on character. 25 attendees. Social evening by Pekos family. Very positive feedback. Katja already asking about next year. Ron will write a report for posting on the SOD site and would like to send out video to coaches who couldn't attend. Patricia sat in on a presentation and attended the social evening. Some athletes attended as well. Would like to increase athlete participation next year. Need to improve communication links with coaches. Colin suggested that Katja should be used to increase links to coaches. Katja used SLACK but that didn't seem to work either. Timing (summer) may be the issue.
6. **Nordic Ski Coach hurt in cycling accident** (Patricia): High school nordic ski coach was cycling near London and was hit from behind and seriously injured (currently paralyzed). There is a fundraising effort to help the family with expenses which has surpassed the \$10,000 goal so Patricia doesn't think it is necessary to make a donation at this point but we might want to keep it in mind.
7. **AGM:** Notice must be issued soon. What do we want to accomplish at this meeting besides reviewing the club survey? Ken suggested review of Paraffin Cup schedule although it may be too early for clubs to commit. We know the OCup schedule but there are other potential conflicts. School unions will announce on August 20th if there will be a strike or perhaps no extra-curricular activities. We should have a large calendar and fill in the blanks. Patricia asked if everyone was willing to stay on the board: Of those in attendance, Ron Howden said he would be stepping down but all others are willing to stay on the board. Patricia will ask Marilyn and Connie. Richard will look for last year's notice as a template. Patricia will double check the by-laws to confirm how many board members are required. Patricia would like board members to suggest other candidates. Ken will be unable to attend the AGM. Gord suggested that the Zone 4 registration changes (see below) may be a good topic to add to the AGM agenda. Patricia has spoken with Liz Inkila who indicated she is hoping to do a webinar for clubs but she needs the information from Zone 4 before she can do this. Liz has to communicate to clubs anyway (as

CCO administrator). What time should the meeting start? 2 p.m. Who is invited? Club officials.
Agenda Topics: required AGM items (minutes, financials, election of directors), Zone 4 membership registration changes, coaching courses/development, club survey, race schedule, share fundraising best practices, CCO strategic plan. If anyone can suggest anyone to lead the discussions, let Patricia know. Colin offered to co-ordinate the discussion on race schedule. Richard will contact all clubs via e-mail or Canada Post if there is no e-mail contact with a letter from the President (Patricia) and notice of meeting. Will provide to Gord for the web site. Richard will work with Highlands to set up refreshments. Richard will handle CCO strategic plan status. Richard will send out a "hold the date" message.

8. **Zone 4 registration:** Because Debra has had Beta experience with the changes, she explained some of the changes. SOD will get remittances from Zone 4 on a weekly basis once Richard has submitted a void SOD cheque image to Zone 4. This information was just received today. Dan needs to get information to clubs on how to use Zone 4 because it is mandatory for membership registration.
9. **Toronto Ski Show:** October 15 – 18 at the International Centre in Mississauga and the sales representative really wants a nordic presence. Patricia is waiting on prices (attachment wouldn't open). Ron said that Hardwood participated last year and their marketing person said it was a waste of time. Creating the booth and finding staff would be more than we can probably handle at this point.
10. **Update on SOD series:** Ron is stepping back from co-ordinating the SOD series. He has become very frustrated with the lack of feedback when he promotes events. e.g. we had Kikkan Randall lined up to do a session and no other clubs showed up despite Ron's attempts to contact coaches and athletes. He has approached Al White as a possible replacement. Al is considering some involvement. Midland and Hardwood are going to have a 6 race series. Ron is willing to help on the website side. Ron will fulfill his commitment for this year for the SOD team – subsidy, jacket, Fall get together. Colin indicated that Waterloo students appreciated the series but Waterloo's race was a "miserable failure" with a "considerable loss" due to conflict with high school exams. Colin asked Ron to write up a summary of the challenges he has faced and raise these at the AGM. Patricia asked Ron to advise any dates already set.

Next meeting: immediately following the AGM to establish a first full meeting of the next board.

Move to adjourn: Colin Rhodes

Seconded by: Gord Kerr

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Approved:

Patricia MacDonell, President

SOD Athlete Support at OCups

Ron: motion for SOD team wax box and race support

- Club coaches should do more work coaching local athletes rather than travelling
- SOD athletes could get supported via SOD
- SOD athletes without a coach travelling to a race sometimes travel with another team, but that is an awkward relationship because they aren't really a part of the host team
- Asking for \$5000 for wax tools, wax, and coaching honorarium. Travel expenses would be paid by athlete trip fees.
- Athletes with big teams would travel with their own club, but athletes in small clubs would have this opportunity
- Not restricted to "SOD Team" – available to all SOD athletes

Connie: could we facilitate smaller clubs who travel to races taking on these orphan athletes rather than using a big club for hosting orphan athletes. Ron: this would work well if we can find those clubs. Colin: small clubs already have wax boxes, so don't need to buy an SOD wax box. Marilyn: don't subsidize some athletes without subsidizing all athletes.

Colin proposed: As soon as OCup calendar is announced, SOD solicit bids from small clubs to host orphan athletes. Bids would be for a certain number of athletes, but should be substantial (ie 6-8 or more). Bidders would need to ensure that they have sufficient waxing resources and sufficient volunteers to manage the athletes. They may need to recruit parent volunteers, or they could count on one of the orphan athletes bringing along a parent. Bids will be due in the summer (timing TBD) SOD will evaluate bids and offer them up to SOD athletes. Essentially we're offering a matching service rather than directly supporting athletes. SOD will provide no financial support. Athletes will pay a trip fee directly to the host club. Approved by all.

We will need someone to evaluate bids. (Possibly Ron since his club would be excluded from bidding and therefore is impartial)

Action: Once OCup calendar is released, Colin to write up a request for bids and forward to Patricia for distribution.

Next meeting: Wed Aug 5 8pm (conference call)

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Colin Rhodes