

Powder Pass Nordic Club  
Wednesday December 18, 2019 6:00 PM  
The Lounge at Crazy Woman - Buffalo Wyoming

Attending: Aaron Kessler, Brian Boden, Tim Cahhal, Ed Von Holst, Mary Fowlkes, Mitch Black, Pam Snyder, Dalreen Kessler, Lorajane Kessler, Charlotte Darling

Agenda

1. Welcome/Introductions - Aaron

2. Reports

a. President's report – Aaron

1. Welcome

2. Season Kick off gathering – analysis—mostly board members and a couple new folks- change date or venue or format to improve turnout? Combine with Sports Lure ski/winter sports clinic in future years? Several PCC registrations and a few additional donations.

b. Treasurer's report – Lorajane

1. Current balance- will have full report next month, several expenses and donations since statement.

2. Recent Paypal donations- \$150.

c. Secretary's report – Charlotte

1. Save the date posters and postcards. Bring poster to Brian at USFS

2. Placed PCC Ads using JCTA funds in Gillette, Sheridan, Worland papers. 2-3 runs and online ads.

3. Make sure to post meeting minutes right after meeting.

4. 6-7 PCC entrants so far. Talked to Keith Hahn about more medals. Looking at having a special “baby trailer” award.

d. USFS report - Silas

1. Fuel for Pole Creek- possible Government shutdown (fuel)- yes we can get more fuel before Friday in case of shutdown.

2. 5 year permit application- working on it but busy with hiring process, can do a 1 year if time gets tight.

Other annual events do 5 year permits, a little less work for both PPNC and USFS, guarantees we have permit for 5 years.

3. Not sure if Willow Park will get groomed much over next few weeks, but hopefully on Friday.

4. Brian visited with Aaron Anderson (county comm. and BHB rec board member) about Willow Park ideas for packing, etc. Sees potential for some skate tracks/widening, etc. in certain areas, but others are likely prohibitive due to terrain. Working on figuring out some possible trial ideas. To do anything this year, they would have to be under volunteer agreement (USFS liability). Long-term agreement would be goal to remove USFS liability.

5. Special Olympics in January facilitated and packed by Brian & USFS at Meadowlark. Possibly may need to accommodate them at Willow Park if Meadowlark isn't available- mostly snowshoe and xc ski events. USFS would have tents, heaters, etc. Sometime around Jan. 24. May need to borrow PPNC roller packer. Mainly shorter distances (400m and under loops).

e. Trails coordinator – Mary

1. Hours and miles- Has volunteer hours for November at home. Emailed to Silas.

2.

3. Ski areas

a. Pole Creek - Aaron

1. Tree removal and trail map arrows and blue diamonds, take down FS sign at PC – put up PPNC signs.

Will put up more red arrows per public requests.

2. Christmas break – trail grooming. Mary said it was good skiing yesterday at PC.

3. Brian- fee tube at Pole Creek- we can take over and put a lock on it, then collect whatever ends up in there.

b. Willow Park – Mary/Mitch

1. Latest trail and snow report- Lots of snow! Ed rode at Willow Park, snow is good. Have been getting good reports from users.

2. Club snowmobile and track setter needed? Mitch possibly willing to pack with older snowmobile and tracksetter pan plate with cinder blocks, Brian may also be able to try it. Trying to level grooves from snowmobiles. Aaron got blue book values from Cody for sale (have depreciated quite a bit)

3. Aaron: CJ's email- west side organizational meeting saw a few folks, maybe not as many as anticipated.

4. Chili fest: Mitch ordered chili, where are we on working with/handing off to west side folks. Did not discuss at west side meeting, but hopefully we can recruit some volunteers from that group to join. PPNC will still need to provide stirrers, helpers, etc. Kesslers and Mitch will be there.

Making some headway, but still a ways to go- a work in progress.

c. Buffalo Golf Course – Aaron

1. Contacted groundskeeper and PPNC has permission to maintain trails if adequate snow falls.

2.

d. Forest Service Road 449

1. Latest trail and snow report- no recent report

2.

4. Old Business

a. Forest Service 5-year race permit. – in progress as noted above.

b. Pole Creek Challenge: Sponsorship and donation letters (Charlotte)- Mitch just finished dropping off, Charlotte as well. Asked for door prizes and other in kind donations, as well as financial sponsors. Have received one \$150 so far.

c. Fat Bike trails at Pole Creek (Ed Von Holst and Tim Cahhal)- last week fat bike fest event, last minute event put together by Sheridan folks. Had about 10 people (?). Currently no group/activity doing fat biking. Smallish population- any events not going to bring in hundreds. Steady use/up and coming sport- adds versatility to biking and seasonal use. If they had some trails, wouldn't get a ton of use. Handed out a small survey and maps of WP and PC, got some feedback. Asked about interest in riding groomed fat bike vs xc ski trails- respondent said either one. This may suggest that grooming fat bike trails farther away from xc trails may make more sense to avoid user conflicts, since if trails are in close proximity they could get used by fat bikes. Willow Park terrain is more fun/better for fat bikes. Option of widening Pole Creek trails? Ed asked Brian- possibility of new trail systems? Depends on definition of "trail system." Great opportunities on forest for fat biking. Ed thinks Tie Hack would be great spot- Pole Creek is not ideal (too flat, not very fun/attractive to those coming from Black Hills, Casper, etc.). User trails in other areas. In other areas, snowshoers and fat bikers have worked together to avoid conflicts on trails. Tim: Pole Creek is attractive to new fat bikers due to parking, known area, etc., even though it's not that fun. User trails (i.e. biking after a snowmobile has gone through to pack) would likely be less problem for USFS (can go anywhere allowing motorized use.) Tim has biked 117 trail after snowmobile went through. Snowmobile accessible trails may be too wide/less attractive than single track for fat bikes. Possibly use 449 area? Or is that too far up for Sheridan folks, etc. Tie Hack- city property issue, if there is a hiking trail put in there, could be groomed in winter for bikes. Tie into ATV trail and trail from South Fork CG down to Tie Hack.

Dalreen asked: Have Ed and Tim encountered anyone interested in actually helping maintain/groom, i.e. getting a group organized to do this? Yes- Bomber Mtn Cycling Club in Sheridan has folks, personally purchased packers, etc., who have done a lot of work. Tim trying to get ahead of the curve on working cooperatively and being on the same page between ski clubs and bike clubs. Sheridan group is doing some work on Cutler and Sibley in concert with Black Mtn. Club. Pam: volunteers at our work days are mostly ski club folks, consider that bikers could help at

our workdays to help build respect and camaraderie. Sheridan bike club and Buffalo bikers should tie in with PPNC and other organizations to support one another. Aaron: What is the space need for a fat bike trail? 24 to 30" is sufficient, not a big 12 ft wide ski type trail. In order to direct users to separate trails, need signage, parking, advertising, etc.

Takeaway: Aaron- respecting the trail is important part, and many have it, but if you drove all the way to Pole Creek for somewhere, you are likely to just go regardless; rapidly changing snow conditions.

#### 5. New Business

- a.
- b.