

BRIDGER BOWL ASSOCIATION
Minutes Spring Meeting
May 30, 2007
7:00 P.M.

BOARD MEMBERS

Present- Randy Elliott (General Manager), Chris Bulger, Ray Center, Jim Drummond, Scott Hoag, Kent Kasting, Teresa Larson, Mike Riley, Rich Stolfus, Estela Villasenor.

MINUTES

The fall, 2007 Association Meeting minutes were circulated for review. A motion was made from the floor to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded from the floor. Vote taken, all in favor. The minutes were approved as circulated.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Copies of the statements of financial position and activities were distributed to association members. Dave Ballinger detailed the income and expense items presented. Skier visits totaled 135,555 resulting in a net profit for the year of \$370,905.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mike Riley reviewed highlights of operation over the past year:

- Bridger continues to be fiscally sound. Randy Elliott and staff were commended for their ability to cut expenses in a low snow year, keeping Bridger in the black.
- A new bus and transportation plan will be in place for the coming year.
- A sustainability committee has been formed to look into environmentally conscious operation options.
- The proposed development of the Bridger Base area is currently on hold. At the last zoning committee meeting, Bridger Canyon Partners asked the county zoning commission to table all discussion for the time being. Bridger's negotiations with them are subsequently on hold. Questions/ comments were fielded from association members:

1) Where does the board stand regarding recent access changes proposed by the Forest Service? Mike responded that the Forest Service sees an opportunity with the recent development to expand access. Board was not involved in this decision. It could cause problems for Bridger Bowl as access to the upper mountain without a ticket may be more easily gained.

A public access easement was established previously in the agreement with 360 Ranch.

- 2) Martha Collins- Requested that the board make public, and clearly communicate, their stand on the previous agreement.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Randy reported on the low snow conditions. He thanked staff in attendance for their efforts to control expenses, which resulted in a profit for the year despite low skier visit numbers. Snow was poor through Jan. The majority of snowfall was received from Feb. 1- March 1.

- Environmental issues- Poor snow focuses attention on global warming, and predictions indicate reduced length in seasons. Snowmaking at Bridger will be increased, as will environmental efforts including bus service and the purchase of green energy.
- Budworm and bark beetle damage to trees at Bridger have increased. Approximately 80 acres centered near Deer Park Chalet will be sprayed aerially and pheromone buttons will be placed in an effort to combat further damage.
- Summer projects include: reconditioning of the new Slushman's lift, painting of Deer Park lift, updating of Alpine lift communication line, and weed control. The big project for this summer will be burying power and communication lines for the new Slushman's lift.
- Summer events- A full slate of weddings and group meetings are scheduled. Bridger will host the Intermountain Ski Area Conference in June. Deer Park dinner service will be discontinued in order to facilitate efficiency and profit margins.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Transportation- Scott Hoag reported on work for funding of new bus system. Bridger worked with Dave Kack at the Western Transportation Institute to apply to the Montana Department of Transportation for \$16,000 with Bridger to match \$14,000. Funding was approved, but at lower level, as is true for the entire Streamline system. Funding was also applied for through the Northern Rocky Mountain Resource Development Council for marketing and advertising of the new system.

The system is planning to provide free service. Route timing was discussed by the membership.

Scott announced that he will not seek a second term on the Board, as he and his wife have planned to travel working with Habitat for Humanity starting this year.

Foundation- Chris Bulger thanked the membership for their support in creating and

funding the Foundation. The foundation has now received just over \$25,000 in contributions, with many coming from distant areas. In excess of \$5,000 in gifts was received from senior skiers who chose to donate the saved expense of their free passes. The Foundation was able to provide support to over 200 school children, Big Brothers and Sisters, and the underwriting of certification costs for instructors, as well as other causes.

Pete McFadyen thanked the Foundation for their contribution of \$4,000 to the Big Sky Youth Empowerment Program.

Sustainability Committee- Rich Stoltzfus reported on the Board's efforts to increase environmental efforts. Bridger has already demonstrated commitment to green operation by recycling cardboard, crushing glass, recycling deep-fry and engine oils, as well as many other projects. Bridger recently joined the Yellowstone Business Partnership-Uncommon Sense Program to network with other businesses in the greater-Yellowstone area regarding green issues.

Options for green power were researched, and green certificates will be purchased from the Northern Border Recovered Energy Project. This project reclaims heat from natural gas compressors near the Canadian border, and converts it to electricity.

Long Range Planning- Kent Kasting reported that the Board has proposed a flexible plan to help focus attention to planning issues for the near future (5 years). Items focused on include:

- Bus system to Livingston
- Snowmaking expansion
- Installation of Slushman's Lift
- Upgrade of Jim Bridger Lodge
- Upgrade to shop building
- Keeping fleet of snow cats up to date
- Upgrade/ realignment of Alpine lift
- Employee retention-competitive wages
- Building adequate financial reserves

Randy intends to fund the installation of the Slushman's lift without seeking a loan if possible. Much of the work will be done in-house, resulting in huge savings on the project.

BOARD NOMINATIONS

Teresa reported that there will be three open positions on the board this year. Mike Riley has completed his 2nd term; and Scott Hoag will be leaving the board after his 1st term to pursue other opportunities. Kent Kasting is seeking reelection for a second term.

Nominees presented by the board are: Pat Holland, R.A. Schmidt, and Mark Yeley. Nominees were sought from the floor, none were presented. Each candidate was given the opportunity to address the membership. Voting will take place via mailed ballots.

Mike Riley and Scott Hoag were recognized for their service to the board, as were Andy Epple and Steve Schnee who received plaques for their previous service on the board.

Kent Kasting recognized Mike Riley for his extraordinary leadership as President of the Board.

NEW BUSINESS

New Members- The following applications for membership were presented for consideration: Aaron James, Kent Madin, Doug Mavor, Hillary Prugh, Fred Schwendeman, Linda Svendsen, Joanna Wales, Rob Wales, Randy Wall, and Mary Kay Yeley.


A motion was made from the floor to approve membership of those presented. The motion was seconded from the floor. Vote taken, all in favor. Motion carried.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Accessibility- Bob Kolesar expressed concern regarding his wife, Ellen's, previous request that he be allowed to ride on a ski-bike while accompanying her as her personal assistant. He cited the Forest Service Accessibility Guide on the issue of personal assistants. He requested that the board revisit the disability policy. Board member Jim Drummond responded that the ad-hoc committee formed in response to his concern plans to conduct an annual review. Input to the committee by association members is welcome.

ADJOURN

The President welcomed a motion to adjourn. A motion to adjourn was made from the floor. The motion was seconded from the floor. Vote taken, all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 P.M.


Teresa Larson
PRESIDENT


Jim Drummond
SECRETARY