

BRIDGER BOWL



STELLAR COMMUNITY STELLAR MOUNTAIN STELLAR DENDRITES

BRIDGER BOWL ASSOCIATION Minutes Spring Meeting May 27, 2009 7:00 P.M. Holiday Inn, Bozeman

BOARD MEMBERS

Present- Randy Elliott (General Manager), Ray Center, Jim Drummond, Pat Holland, Kent Kasting, Kristie McPhie, Bob Petit, R.A. Schmidt, Rich Stoltzfus, Estela Villasenor Allen.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:05

MINUTES

The fall, 2008 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 Income Budget Report were distributed to association members. Dave Ballinger detailed the income and expense items presented. Total income for the year was \$6,615,193- up from \$4,803,829 the previous year. Net profit for the year totaled \$976,832. The numbers reflect pre-audit totals; actual numbers will vary once books are closed. A suggestion was made that the Board compare food service numbers with those of other similar sized resorts.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Board Members- Kent Kasting introduced Board members and their respective committee responsibilities. Ray was recognized for his 6 years of dedicated service on the Board.

Budget- Operating costs have gone up slightly, profit for next year is budgeted to be a bit lower than this year (depending on snow conditions). Bridger has good cash reserves (which are intended to be used for capital improvements) and no debt. The Board favors the fiscal approach of "pay as we go", borrowing as little as possible.

Bridger Canyon Partners- Development plans are currently on hold. There is talk of an attempt to sell the entire property. The Board continues to monitor this carefully as it pertains to Bridger's interests.

Projects- A new program was started this year to open dialog with local ski shops. Board members visited local shop owners seeking input on opportunities to improve our working relationship. WiFi hookup in Saddle Peak Lodge will be installed for the upcoming season. Bridger supported the downtown business relief fund- \$11,500 was

raised and donated for this cause. About \$500,000 was given to the community in monetary and in-kind donations this year.

Schlasman's Lift- Response to the addition has been very positive. Details of patrol are still being worked out. This expansion increased Bridger's status significantly.

Association members were asked to remind friends and family of the potential dangers, and expertise necessary, to safely ski this terrain.

New lift expansion- The mission statement guides Board decisions. In keeping with this, many options for replacement of lifts were considered. Professional guidance was sought to help determine priority for lift development. Expansion was considered for the upcoming season, but the Board made the decision to hold off for a year, looking to replace Deer Park/ Bridger in some way for the following season (2010-2011).

Association members were asked to keep in mind that planned expansion is a multi-step process, and comments and suggestions are welcome. Association members were reminded that they have an important voice in expansion considerations.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Recognition-Randy thanked and recognized employees present; Bridger employs close to 400 people. Early wet snow made for a great base this year, and provided the start for a great snow year overall.

Lift replacement- Several consultants were contracted to offer expertise and review plans. Every imaginable variation was explored, and two viable options surfaced. Both options include the removal of both Deer Park and Bridger lifts, and feature the current unload of Bridger at the top. The plans differ in the base location; which could be Boot Hill or the current location of Deer Park Lift. The next step is to complete profiles for both bottom locations; there are numerous complications with both sites to consider.

Many suggestions and questions regarding options were fielded from members.

Although capacity will be decreased, wind concerns will be greatly lessened with the installation of a new (triple) lift. A quad would have to be run at a slower lift speed due to code. Unfortunately, there is no perfect solution- we are working for a best possible solution. Comments and suggestions were requested from members and can be emailed to: Bridgerbowl@imt.net

Loading Carpets- Bridger will be on the forefront with installation of loading carpets. These cut down significantly on slows and stops and increase efficiency greatly. Two are slated to be installed for the upcoming season: Powder Park and Pierre's. Total cost for both including installation will run just over \$400,000.

Sheila Harr- Sheila was recognized for her many years serving as a host. She has been a host since the inception of the program approximately 10 years ago. She will continue to serve as an ambassador in coming seasons.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Long-Range Planning- Rich Stoltzfus presented on long-range planning. He shared calculations on potential efficiency of a new lift given lap time considerations.

The Board has a large wish list, but lifts have been designated as a priority. Other considerations include: a back-up power source, land purchase in the base area, more water for snow-making, sustainability efforts (energy credits, solar panels, and green tags) and upgrading of groomers, graders etc.

Transportation- Estela Villasenor Allen presented on the history of the busing program. This year Bridger Bowl was honored with a sustainability award. Bus service expansion to MSU with funding from ASMSU this year helped increase service. Bohart also signed on, and Bridger is looking to expand service to surrounding school districts including Park County. The biggest accomplishment this year was starting of a stakeholders group looking at traffic issues on Bridger Canyon Road.

Bridger Bowl Foundation- Terry Abelin reported that the Foundation supported many programs this year including teen and adult avalanche workshops, ski P.E. for schools, and Big Brothers and Sisters. Net assets currently total \$28,133 and donations are welcome!

New Members- The following applications for membership were presented for ratification: Steven Barber, Scott Benowitz, Scott Bischke, Dana Diaz, Roy Kohler, Nancy Maes, Mark Manseau, Joe Rightmyer, John Short, Peter Skidmore, Michael Stiff, Jordan Werner, Pepi Culver, Nancy Heaberlin, Scott McPhie, and Bettilee Hallin. A motion was made from the floor to ratify membership of those presented. The motion was seconded from the floor. Vote taken, all in favor. Motion carried, memberships were approved.

Nominating Committee- Pat Holland reported that he, Kristie, R.A. and Ray sought to assure breadth of expertise when considering candidates for nomination. 3 positions are open, 4 candidates were nominated by the Board. They were: Estela & Rich (seeking 2nd terms), Rick Hickson, and Tim Marcinko. Nominations were welcomed from the floor. Frank Culver nominated Doug Monger; Doug accepted the nomination. Each candidate was allowed time to speak, Tim Marcinko was ill, but sent a statement, which was read by Ray Center. Voting will be conducted through mail ballots, which will be sent soon.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Geo-Tourism Maps- Doug Wales reported that Bridger was honored by National Geographic for our sustainability efforts, and thus is represented on their new Geo-Tourism Map. He brought maps for Association Members to take home.


Men's Rooms- Concerns of odor continue.


Lift Sweeping- It was requested that lifties sweep lift seats on snow days.

Communication- Kelly Wiseman requested that a better communication process between the Board and Members be put into place. Proactive communication could have reduced frustration over rumors which surfaced in recent discussions regarding lift updates. The President responded that the Board is concerned, and that Bridger is in the process of hiring someone to help facilitate communication via the website.

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 8:45 P.M.


Kent Kasting
PRESIDENT


Jim Drummond
SECRETARY