



BRIDGER BOWL ASSOCIATION
Minutes Spring Meeting
May 26, 2004
7:00 P.M.

BOARD MEMBERS

Present- Terry Abelin, (Manager), Randy Elliot, (Mountain Manager), Roger R. Bay, Chris Bulger, Ray Center, Andy Epple, Carolyn Hartsog, Teresa Larson, Mike Riley, Steve Schnee, Lew Zimmer

MINUTES

Fall 2003 Association Meeting minutes were circulated and reviewed. A motion was made from the floor for approval of the minutes. The motion was seconded. Vote taken. All in favor. None opposed. The minutes were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Terry circulated and reviewed the income report for the year ending April 30, 2004. Bridger's total income was \$5,023,987. Profit for the year totaled \$790,412. 2.7 million dollars will be borrowed for completion of the new lodge, to be paid back within 10 years, although Bridger plans to pay it off within 5 years.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Roger reported that this has been a historic year for Bridger. Important events include Terry's retirement, Randy assuming the General Manager position, record snow, the accompanying tragedy, and construction on the new lodge.

Lockers are still available for rent in the new lodge.

The S.D.E.I.S. is published and available for public review. Copies can be found at the Ranger District Office and at libraries, as well as on-line. Comments on the document are due by June 15th.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Terry reported that Bridger had a good year. Skier visits totaled 168,000, close to the 5 year average of 166,000. The average ticket price per skier visit worked out to \$22.48 with the average income per skier visit totaling \$29.86.

March was down 20% from the 5 year average due to poor snow conditions.

There was an average of 3,354 skiers on the 10 busiest days.

Eagle Mount recorded 700 student days.

The BSF program remains successful, with several members on the Jr. Olympic team. Heather McPhie, a former BSF skier, placed 1st in a pro-event in Utah this season, and is poised to represent the U.S. in future Olympic competition.

Bridger supports the MSU ski team, as well as several citizen races. Dick Walter Auto has generously sponsored some citizen events. Season pass sales for the 2003-4 year totaled 4,733.

Nationally for 2003-4, the average ticket price was \$53.95, compared with \$36.00 at Bridger. The average percentage of season pass holders is 28.9% nationally, compared with 49.3% at Bridger.

Bridger Bowl license plates are now available. \$10 from each renewal goes to Bridger Ski Foundation, who initiated the project.

Doug Wales was recognized for his marketing efforts which have garnered Bridger a national marketing award for 3 of the last 5 years.

Members were reminded that summer dinners will be available at Deer Park Chalet on Thursday and Friday nights between June 24th and September 24th.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW GENERAL MANAGER

Roger introduced Randy Elliot as new General Manager. Randy has served Bridger for 27 years, the last 12 as Mountain Manager. He holds a degree in Recreation Management from MSU. He was selected through a national search, and will begin his new position effective May 28th.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Long Range Planning- Roger reported that comments on the S.D.E.I.S. are due by June 15th. A display of the planned expansion was available. Hand-outs of the map were also available, and included suggestions for letters of comment.

Roger assumes from past experience that there will be opposition to expansion from various organizations.

Members were asked to consider the long-range benefits of expansion for future generations of skiers, and to write comments. Comments to the Forest Service should be substantial.

After the comment period the Forest Service will analyze comments and may make changes. Approximately 2-4 months later the Final E.I.S. will be released, containing the record of decision by Becky Heath, Forest Service Supervisor. Following this, there will be an appeal period.

An association member requested information about the design of proposed lifts and priority of expansion to the North or South. The lift designers included professional ski area designers, as well as local staff. The lifts are proposed in the master plan, and not definite. New expansion would likely occur first to the North due to snow conditions, including avalanche concerns. Approval of the EIS would allow expansion to both the North and South. Boundaries could be extended without lift service where there is no concern of avalanche safety.

Communication- Teresa reported that the communication committee's plans to seek a guest editorial in the Chronicle evolved into a Chronicle-written editorial endorsing the proposed expansion. The article provided good factual information.

The latest newsletter included a map of the proposed expansion which was reproduced for six displays which have been posted throughout Bozeman. The displays contain factual information about the expansion, as well as information on writing effective comments to the Forest Service.

Members were asked to participate in the naming of the new lodge. Ballots were distributed.

Building- Mike reported on the history of the base area expansion. Phase I (ski patrol building) and Phase II (new lodge) are included in the \$6 million budget approved by the board. Phase III (remodel of Jim Bridger Lodge) was put on hold, and is not included in the budget number.

The new lodge is 39,000 square feet, and is now 75% complete. Change orders represent less than 1% of the cost. Effective teamwork between Rotherham Construction and Overland Partners Architects has helped to keep costs low.

The new facility will provide: added dining space, large locker room, season pass sales, child care facility, ski school, ticket windows, storage space, conference room, and will house an elevator. The approximate cost per square foot is \$110.

Foundation- Chris reported that up to now, there has been no formal vehicle to allow charitable donations to Bridger. A foundation is currently being created which would ensure: 1) tax advantages for donors, 2) segregation of funds from general operations, 3) allow funds to be restricted for special purposes at the desire of the giver. Initial documents have been drafted, and are soon to be submitted to the I.R.S. for approval. Chris believes approval is likely, and is hopeful that the foundation will be in place by summer 2004. A separate board of directors will be established to oversee the foundation. The legal work to create the foundation was done pro-bono.

OLD BUSINESS

New Members- Carolyn presented the new member applicants for consideration. They are: Chere LeClair, Richard Griffen, Robert Jensen, Tom Carls, Herb Rosengren, Robert Wade, Victor Ray, Jack Ostrovsky, Jeffrey Banta, Warren Little, Gerald Carisch, Kenneth Wharton, Lois Swatland, Jim Karas, R.A. Schmidt, Jerry Gossel.

A motion was made from the floor to accept the new members. Motion was seconded from the floor. Vote taken. All in favor. None opposed. Motion passed.

There are currently just under 500 association members.

BOARD NOMINATIONS

Andy acknowledged the outgoing board members, Lew Zimmer and Roger Bay, each of whom have served two 3-year terms. They were presented with plaques of appreciation.

The nominating committee, including Andy, Chris, Ray and Teresa, interviewed several candidates. It was noted that the board seeks to recruit members from a wide variety of backgrounds in order to maintain well-rounded expertise.

The board nominated four individuals for three open positions: David DeHaan, Scott Hoag, Kent Kasting. Mike Riley was renominated for a second 3-year term. Each presented a brief biography to those in attendance.

Wayne Jennings was nominated from the floor.

A motion was made from the floor to close nominations. Motion was seconded from the floor. Vote taken. All in favor. None opposed. Motion passed.

Mr. Jennings presented a brief biography.

The election of Board Members will be forthcoming, and is executed by an independent audit group.

CLOSING

Terry extended thanks to association members for their involvement in Bridger Bowl. He presented a short history of his many years of involvement at Bridger. He thanked Dr. John Montagne, who encouraged his involvement in Bridger early in his career. In Terry's long career managing Bridger, he has worked with 56 of the 82 Board Members of the Association. He recognized the department supervisors for their dedication. Growth of Bridger during Terry's management has included the purchasing of 340 acres of land, and millions of dollars in improvements.

Terry was recognized with a standing ovation from the association membership and board of directors.

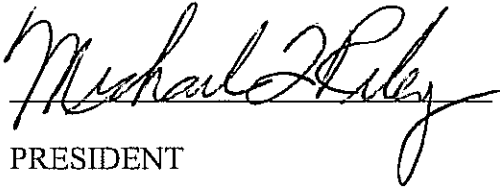
Roger presented a NSAA plaque commemorating Terry's "significant and important contributions to the ski industry". He, and wife Pat Abelin, were also presented with lifetime season passes to Bridger from the board of directors.

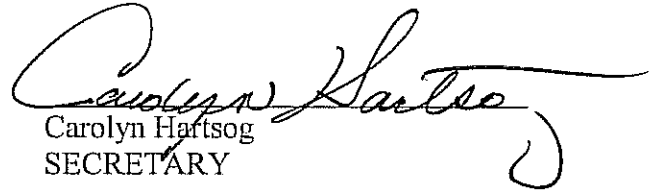
A question was raised from the floor regarding the possibility of association and board members meeting with Forest Service officials to discuss the SDEIS. The board will contact the Forest Service to check their schedule.

A question was raised from the floor regarding the status of out-of-bounds skiing. The issue has not been addressed by the board in the past year. Current policy of the Forest Service and Bridger Bowl stipulates no open boundaries.

The President asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made from the floor to adjourn. The motion was seconded from the floor. Vote taken. All in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 P.M.


PRESIDENT


Carolyn Hartsog
SECRETARY