



**Bridger Bowl Association Meeting
Spring Meeting Minutes
May 22, 2019, 7:00 p.m.
Holiday Inn – Bozeman, MT**

BOARD MEMBERS

Present: Mark Manseau, President; Pat Hoffman, Executive Vice President; Julie Bennett, Associate Vice President; Board Members: Diane Allen, Dave Weaver, Jacob Werner and Kelly Wiseman; Bob Petitt, Vice President of Operations; Dave Ballinger, Treasurer; Lindsay Korth, Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

Mark called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

MINUTES

Mark presented the minutes from the Fall 2018 Association meeting and requested a motion to approve the minutes. Jim Walker moved to approve the minutes from the November 13, 2018 meeting; Robb Larson seconded the motion. With no additional discussion, members voted: All in favor, none opposed; minutes approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Dave Ballinger presented the financials for year-ending April 30, 2019, pre-audit and incomplete report. Skier visits for the year were at a record 291,754. Dave detailed income for each department, which exceeded last year's numbers in most departments. Cost of good sold for both Food Service and Retail improved from last year. A member asked Dave what the line item "Other Income" entailed; Dave explained that the category included timber sales, Association dues and memberships, sale of fixed assets, tower lease income, Radio Users Group income, gain on investments and other true miscellaneous income. Dave detailed expenses for each department. Expenses were higher than last year in most departments, primarily due to the early opening in November and increased skier visits. Net profit for the fiscal year was \$3.18 million, which was about \$75,000 less than last year and \$880,000 better than budget. A complete audit will take place in August.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mark introduced himself and the other board members present; Todd Goertzen and Joe Seymour were absent. With a lot of good snow, Bob Petitt and his crew pulled off another great season! Projects for this summer include rerouting the access roads, getting underground power from the highway and installing solar panels, along with several other smaller projects. The Board of Directors and Bridger Bowl management continue to discuss base area upgrades. Bridger works very hard to maintain zero debt; these profitable years allow for capital projects to be paid with cash. Mark also alerted members of the new meeting location for the Fall 2019 Association Meeting; the meeting will be located at the Hilton Garden Inn in Bozeman on Tuesday, November 19th.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Bob thanked everyone for attending the meeting and recognized the previous board members in the room: Kent Kasting, Ray Center, Andy Epple, Steve Pohl and Robb Larson. Bridger had a great 2018-19 season! Skier visits were up, we hired a record 494 employees throughout the season, operated 132 days (second longest season ever), and had the earliest opening since 1991. Bob gave a big "thank you" to Randy Elliott, who is officially retired from all management roles; Randy is a wealth of knowledge. There will be several changes in management this upcoming year. Jason Prasek will be taking over for Randy as the Mountain Manager. Doug Richmond will be transitioning into a "regular" patroller and Pete Maleski will take over as Ski Patrol Director. Arlo Shearer has retired and long-time employee Erik Pidgeon is the new Facilities Supervisor. Kyle Cremers will officially take over as the Ski Shop Manager, after Travis Kirkpatrick left mid-season. Bob thanked the Administration staff: Dave, Lindsay, Bob, Dawn and Steve. He introduced Robert Drake, who will have responsibility over Marketing, IT, Food Service, Tickets and Facilities departments. Erin O'Connor did an excellent job in her first year as Marketing Director. Shannon Griffin took over as the Snowsports Director last year and also did a great job. Erik Brewster excelled in his first year as Lift Operations Supervisor. Jeff Abelin will continue his role as Ticket Office Manager but will be taking on more IT responsibilities. Bonnie Hickey completed her first year in her new role as Sustainability Director; she is working hard on Bridger's transportation and sustainability goals. Dan Doehring continues to do a great job keeping the groomers up to date and working well. Jim Walker did an outstanding job, as always, managing the Food & Beverage department. They have several weddings scheduled for this summer. Bob also thanked the current board members for their support.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance – Jake thanked Dave Ballinger for his hard work. The committee assists with the auditing process, health care plans and employee wages. He is grateful for the culture of Bridger and believes that is what keeps employees working there. Any questions for the Finance Committee can be addressed at the end of the meeting.

FOUNDATION REPORT

Chad Smith reported that they had a great year. The Foundation issued 300 participant scholarships to students who were unable to fully, or partially, support ski days with their schools. This cost about \$13,000, which is average for the last few years. Fundraising events for the 2018-19 season included Give Big Gallatin Valley and the BSF Ski Swap. Next season, they plan to team up with the Bridger Bowl Marketing department to put on a fundraising event in the Community Race Series. The Foundation received a large donation from Gail and Rick Saracelli in honor of their son, Tony, who died in an avalanche on Saddle Peak in April 2018. Board members will be working on updating donor boards this summer. Chad introduced two new board members to the Foundation Board of Directors: Natalie VanDusen and Dick Dowdell; he is excited to see what they have to offer.

BRIDGER SKI FOUNDATION REPORT

Evan Weiss introduced himself as Executive Director of the Bridger Ski Foundation (BSF). There were 680 participants in BSF this year; of those, 177 Alpine and 100 Freestyle skiers participated at Bridger. BSF offered \$32,000 in scholarships and financial aid to participants. Priorities for BSF include updating the introductory team curriculum, improving pathways with Bridger Bowl Snowsports, updating the freestyle development team, and increasing the adult racing participants. BSF and MSU will collaborate with Bridger Bowl to host the NCAA ski championships in March 2020. Evan also explained that the organization continues to focus on the community Nordic trail system; they plan to install snowmaking near Sunset Hills/Lindley Park area in Bozeman. The Ski Swap that occurs in October is a big fundraiser for BSF. Contact Evan with any questions or comments.

BOARD NOMINATIONS

Mark announced the three board-recommended nominees for the three openings on the Bridger Bowl Board of Directors: Todd Goertzen (incumbent), Dave Weaver (incumbent) and Ellen Payton. Ellen will replace Diane Allen, who has finished her second 3-year term. Dave and Ellen each gave a brief biography to members; Todd was absent from the meeting. Mark requested additional nominations from the floor, three times; there were no additional nominations so nominations were closed. Ballots will be mailed out to members in June.

NEW MEMBERS

Pat presented the following membership applications for ratification: Mork Amberson, Alan Adams, Charlie Avis, Christopher Carter, Packy Cronin, Melissa Cronin, Craig Delger, Lisa Diekmann, Max Dougherty, Heather Drake, Robert Drake, Gerrit Egnew, Hilary Eisen, Tim Ford, Shannon Griffin, Thomas Harari, Will Hensleigh, Austin Leach, Katee Lynch, Michael Mansfield, Chris McAleenan, Katharina Miller, Brian Murphy, Mike Papke, Chelsea Pummel, Deenya Rabiuss, Riley Siddoway, Holly Tarlow, Judy Tsiang, Evan Weiss and Mike Wolfe. Ed Wheeler moved to ratify the new members; Jim Walker seconded the motion. Vote taken, all in favor; motion carried and memberships approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Eagle Mount – Bob Kolezar explained that the Eagle Mount facilities at Bridger Bowl are inadequate. He explained that he has had a conversation regarding this topic with Dave Weaver, ADA Chair for the Board of Directors, but would like Association members to be aware of the issue. Bob explained that Bridger needs to comply with ADA requirements. Mark and Dave Weaver thanked Bob for his input. They explained that this topic has an ongoing conversation and will also be considered during the base area planning discussions.

NEW BUSINESS

Uphill Traffic – Kathleen Miller introduced herself and her colleagues, Charlie Avis, Mike Wolf, Alan Adams, Chelsie Pommel and Hillary Ivan; these individuals are part of a passionate group of skiing professionals who would like Bridger Bowl to allow for uphill traffic during the operating season. The group is requesting access to groomed runs at Bridger via skinning from the base area, either before or after Bridger spins its lifts for the public. They would like to and have a conversation with board members at a later date. Mark thanked them for the information and informed them that someone will be in touch to schedule a meeting.

Mountain Biking – Ryan Watson introduced himself as a long-time Bozeman resident and Bridger skier. He would like Bridger to consider operating year-round and manage biking trails for the public. Mark informed him that this is an ongoing conversation with several interested groups around the valley, including the Forest Service.

Transportation – Ryan Watson also requested that Bridger Bowl come up with a solution to the bumper-to-bumper traffic from Bozeman to Bridger on the weekends. Pat Hoffman, Transportation Committee Chair, informed members that Bridger has been focusing a lot of time on the bus system, including potentially investing in an electric bus. Bob Petitt mentioned that Bridger is looking into adding a midweek bus next season. One struggle is avoiding empty busses driving through the canyon. Bridger will continue to focus on transportation and bussing issues.

Mark thanked members for their input and ideas.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mark thanked everyone for attending the meeting and their involvement with Bridger Bowl. He welcomed a motion to adjourn the meeting. Erin O'Connor moved the meeting be adjourned; Jim Walker seconded the motion. Vote taken, all in favor; Mark adjourned the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

[REDACTED]

PRESIDENT

[REDACTED]

SECRETARY