

Colorado Mountain Club State Council Meeting Minutes

September 30, 2006

American Mountaineering Center, Golden CO

The meeting was called to order by Janice Heidel, State Board President. Members of the State Council, State Board and guests in attendance were: Todd Whalen, Paul Weber, Bill Brown, Art Hogling, Bea Slingsby, Peter Gowen, Jim Chapin, Julie Beckwith, Wynne Whyman, Eric Hunter, Lisa Heckel, Rick Keetch, Kristy Judd, Bill Markley, Sherry Richardson, John Raich, Steve Bonowski, Ed Seely, Shelly St. John, Tom Beckwith, Brenda Porter, Vera Smith, and David Hite.

The minutes of the Spring 2006 were approved as written.

Janice Heidel announced that eight voting members of the State Council were in attendance.

Report from the President. Janice Heidel reported that she continues to work on many topics of concern to the Club including communication between the State and local groups, access for hiking and climbing, relationships with the Forest Service, and getting to know and appreciate the talents and hard work of the CMC staff. She emphasized her availability via e-mail at **president@cmc.org**.

Progress toward Development of a Strategic Plan. Wynne Whyman emphasized the Board's need to develop a Strategic plan and the steps the Executive Committee has taken to involve the membership in the first steps to attaining the goal. These steps have included the asking for thoughts on rewriting the Club's nearly 100-year-old mission statement. This fall members will be asked via e-mail about other elements of a strategic plan including Club values, goals, strengths and weaknesses. January 20-21 the Board will hold a retreat devoted to dealing with a large segment of strategic planning. Wynne emphasized the desire that building a strategic plan be a collective effort from the Board, Group Councils, and individual Club members.

Membership Task Force. Task Force chair Art Hogling reported actively seeking 4-5 additional members to join his effort. The task force should attract those with experience in marketing and research as well as those who belong to several outdoor organizations. The life of the Task Force will be one year. Art pictures the group meeting once every six weeks. The Task Force will examine, among other items, previous CMC member surveys and surveys of other mountaineering organizations.

Report from the Executive Director. Kristy Judd reported that she was hired by the CMC exactly 10 years ago today. The Council responded with a warm round of applause for a job well done.

Proposals from the Fort Collins Group. Paul Weber spoke to the following as a unanimous recommendation to the State Council from the Fort Collins Group. He noted that the Boulder and Pikes Peak Groups had endorsed the proposal as well:

That the CMC is organized on behalf of and for the benefit of its members. Second, that providing outdoor recreation opportunities is at the center of the mission. Once commitment is gained for these principles, detailed language can be developed in coordination with other members, other groups, and state governance representatives of CMC Groups or any CMC member.

Paul reported that Fort Collins CMC members enjoy the Club for three primary reasons: to go on trips, to meet people, and to learn skills. He moved that the Council adopt the language for submission to the State Board. The motion was seconded.

Bea Slingsbe asked about the effect of the language on the Club's receiving SCFD funds.

Ed Seely suggested that finances should not drive the Club's mission statement. He stated that a recognition of the Club's recreational pursuits should not be a barrier to continuation of the organization's tax exempt status.

Steve Bonowski requested the motion be tabled until more research could be accomplished.

Sherry Richardson asked how the Club's direction and activities would change if the recommendation was adopted. Paul said that mission drives strategic planning and the strategic plan drives the distribution of resources. For example, a different mission statement could strengthen leadership training and first aid training.

Wynne Wyman suggested that the proposed language might more appropriately be stated as a value rather than be an element in the mission. She stated that mission statements are usually very broad.

Peter Gowen stated that the language should be sent on to the State Board. In his opinion the language represents what we currently do, namely provide recreational opportunities.

John Raich observed that the perception may be that the membership is not receiving enough services although the reality is that everything is being offered.

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the Fort Collins Group Council recommendation. It was noted that the Pikes Peak Group had added the words "environmentally sensitive" to the second fundamental principle so that the sentence would read, "Second, that providing environmentally sensitive outdoor recreation opportunities is the center of the mission." An amendment to the motion was made, seconded, and adopted to accept the additional language. The vote was 7-1. The original motion, as amended, was adopted on a vote of 7-1.

Paul Weber explained that the three groups had also adopted a second recommendation which reads as follows:

Ask the CMC Board to approve a policy that states that any CMC Board meeting that intends to consider revision of the CMC Mission or of the role of Groups in the CMC will

be announced in advance to CMC Groups and will be open to attendance by representatives of CMC Groups or any CMC member.

Paul Weber moved to adopt the language of the second recommendation. Peter Gowen seconded the motion, reporting that the Boulder Group had adopted the second recommendation as well. The motion passed on a vote of 7-1.

Council members expressed a desire to craft a mission statement that would incorporate the first statement but also be sensitive to maintenance of the Club's 501(c)(3) status.

Report of State Board Nominating Committee. Shelly St. John presented the recommendations for filling five positions on the State Board for terms of three years and two recommendations for filling one year terms.

After Council discussion the following were approved by paper ballots: for three year terms Earl Hughes, Ann Morgan, Sherry Richardson, Dave Tabor, Bill Brown. For one year terms, Carol Kurt and Kent Crites.

Report on the Continued Use of Peak Registers. Vera Smith reported that the District Office of the Forest Service in Leadville wants peak registers removed from Wilderness Areas. Vera is gathering information and soliciting opinions with the intent of presenting a report to the State Board. The Council discussed various options to summit registers including virtual registries and trailhead registration. No strong opinion was expressed for keeping the present summit register system.

Group and Committee Report

Boulder. CMC schools charging students fees should obtain permits from the City of Boulder Mountain Parks division if climbing on the flatirons. The CMC staff contact is Brenda Porter. The Group no longer requires trip leaders to attend refresher programs for first aid skills.

Gore Range. The Group's membership has experienced a slight decline.

Adventure Travel. The program is thriving with a diverse and increasing number of trips planned.

Colorado Springs. The Group reports stable membership numbers and a record number of trips in the Winter Schedule.

Denver. Membership numbers have been augmented by the Over the Hill Gang group joining the Club.

Website. Hopefully by the end of this calendar year the online trip sign-up system will be operational. A part-time employee has been hired to help implement the system.

Safety and Leadership. The state committee continues to ruminate over first aid requirements for leaders. First aid training for those in the smaller out-state Groups is difficult to attain.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:57.