RMOTHG BOARD MEETING MINUTES MARCH 8, 2021

PRESENT: Scott Kramer, Lue Fratantuono, Susanne Spandau, Mike O’Conner, Carol Wier, Janice Johnson, Kirsten Tollefsen, Ronnie Knueven, Carol Zurcher (late arrival) and Jeff Flax

SECRETARY REPORT — CAROL ZURCHER

Motion was made to accept and approve minutes. Minutes accepted and approved.

Request was made by Ronnie Knueven - Social Committee, after our March meeting, to reallocate $1,250 in our budget from the 2020 cancelled Christmas party to be used for our 2021 Summer Picnic at Staunton Park.

This required a vote from the Board members to approve or disapprove. The request was unanimously approved by all the Board Members.

MEMBERSHIP — SUSANNE SPANDAU

Total Membership, 1,066 (as of 2/28/21)
Social Members, 5
Lifetime Members, 55 (1 new LT member....Jeff Flax)

There were 18 new members, 33 expiring members and 22 expired members.

People are discouraged because of COVID-19. Some are waiting to renew until COVID-19 restrictions are lifted or reduced. All new members receive a welcome letter. Also, posted on CMC calendar “New Member Introduction “ via Zoom meetings.

TREASURERS REPORT — MIKE O’CONNER

Not much to report .... nothing new. Received nothing from Denver Group.

He has a request from Martha Mustard for some money for supplies such as radios. Mike has asked her for the details.

There is progress being made in receiving information for our treasurer’s report.

Under discussion and further inquiry is the Reserve Account question brought up at our previous meeting for RMOTHG. This would be a way to keep some of our money, leftover money, under our control in a reserve account for emergency issues. More to come.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE — RONNIE

Ronnie is ready to set up social events. She is just waiting to get the OK to do so. Things are looking better especially for outdoor socializing. She asked, should she plan something for May at an outdoor venue like Brew House? She is thinking of a Thursday or Friday from 3:00 - 5:00. We said “yes” start planning for it. She will get her committee together and get to work on something for May and June. Jeff suggested making sure that these places have a cancellation policy.
Staunton Park is reserved for July 10th for our annual picnic. She is planning on having a food truck rather than having members bring side dishes and cooking our own burgers. No self serve/buffet this year.

Mt. Vernon is scheduled for September 12th, for the annual meeting. It will be an early sit down dinner with a happy hour. No buffet, we will be served. Holiday party is reserved for 12/5/21 at the CMC.

CMC DENVER COUNCIL LIAISON — KIRSTEN TOLLEFSEN

CMC classifications are being looked at. Mountaineers have a badge program that CMC is looking at. Kirsten’s goal is to look at better communications between the different groups and sections. Looking at different ways of communicating.

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER REPORT — CAROL WIER

For the Rucksack Carol is sending over photos and interview questions. She and Janice and Diana Bliss spent a lot of time on Turquoise Lake. The date has been mentioned in the Newsletter. They were able to reserve 15 sites. Very difficult this year because everyone is wanting to get out and camp. It is all getting organized and they need volunteers to help get it all together. They are doing a Monkey Survey for group interest. A lottery will be held the end of April.

CHAIRS COMMENTS — SCOTT KRAMER

Before tuning the meeting over to Jeff, Scott had a couple of comments.

Number 1. Should we waive fees for Lifetime members and 40+ year members. Lue said that this had already been discussed a few years ago. It was decided then not to charge them. Susanne will look for the documents stating this.

Number 2. Maintaining our leaders. It’s sounding like there are a few disgruntled/discouraged leaders unsure of their future participation. COVID-19 has really disrupted things. The restrictions and WFA training issues have leaders up in the air. Kirsten suggested using the coordinators to communicate with leaders about their future participation.

Scott then turned meeting over to Jeff Flax.

JEFF FLAX — CMC INFORMATIONAL

With regards to our leaders re-upping to lead, Jeff has talked with Martha Mustard and the coordinators will be meeting to discuss this issue and what they’re hearing. There is also a Leaders Meeting on Zoom coming up where some of this can be discussed. Because of WFA training issues due to the restrictions of COVID-19, Our leaders with WFA certification that ran out in 2020 are on an extension by CMC to the end of 2021. We have a lot of people waiting to get re-certified. Jeff thinks training will be caught up by the end of the current year.
Jeff is no long doing WFA. CMC has partnered with Backcountry Pulse using Zoom and videos. CMC switched from SALT for free WFA tuition for leaders to the state paying for 5 persons per class. We will have to make some adjustments because so many leaders need to be Re-qualified. We have some donated money CMC received specifically designated for training. CPR classes will resume in May using mannequins, 6 feet apart, chest compressions only and wearing masks. CPR is not required for leaders.

Avalanche training is still under discussion for now.

New Website is coming along. We have 2 main companies working on it. We’re using the platform designed by The Mountaineers. themountaineers.org take a look at it. They’ve gone through a lot of updates and refinements. It’s a great website and will be good for us. We Are paying them $250K over 5 years. We will be co-owners, they will use the money for enhancements. It will do so much for us. Jeff would like to see it completed in October 2022. They use badges for their leaders. The badge idea let’s people know how much training/experience and what training their leaders have. Jeff thinks this is a good idea.

The CMC is doing fine, things are picking up. We received 2 PPP loans for about $250K each. We have about 600 new CMC members. We are looking for new ways to communicate, maybe with Instagram or Facebook. Also, looking for major donors for CMC “Youth, Conservation and Website”. Backcountry Skiing was a very successful program. We had a major contributor for Education.

At the end of meeting Janice mentioned that we have a new leader Michael McMann.

Meeting adjourned at 2:20 pm. Next meeting May 10, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted

Carol Zurcher