

Minutes of WSGA Board Meeting

December 12, 2013

Hydnsek called WSGA's 5th Business Meeting of the year to order at 6:34 PM on December 12, 2013.

Board Members in attendance: hydnek (Abby Wolfe), benandjayme (Ben Hewitt), HippyChick1620 (Kristine Norton), psykokiwi (Kelly Wiggans-Crawford), Martin 5 (Jerry Martin), mc3cats (Chris Brue), Geek&Gopher (Ray Harrison), idajo2 (Jo Dunn), tumbleweedpirates (Mike Lowery), Mr. Gadget #2 (Gene Reed), Kathy McCormack (GrievousAngel)

Board Members absent: idajo2 (Jo Dunn)

Proxies: mc3cats for idajo2, tumbleweedpirates for GrievousAngel (who joined the meeting partway through)

Also in attendance: NepoKama (Mitch Eatough), jcar (Jim Bertrand), Louie Bliss (Nicole Bliss), Sunshine Geo (Angie Harper)

Visitors: CacheDFish, ZagmomnDad

Hydnsek welcomed the board members and visitors in attendance.

Introduction of New Appointees

Report by hydnek

Hydnsek introduced Louie Bliss as Park Liaison Manager and jcar as Campout Advisor.

Park Liaison Manager is WSGA's most important appointed position, supporting the club's founding purpose of working with land managers in support of geocaching. The Park Liaison Program has grown substantially since hydnek created it in February 2010, and it has become a valuable asset to park systems and the geocaching community. Hydnek was thrilled that Nicole agreed to take over this key role. A former Groundspeak lackey with experience working with park systems, she is the perfect person to lead and evolve the program, working with our geocaching liaisons and the land managers.

Campout Advisor was created in 2011 to support each year's campout manager, to provide advice and support in organizing the campout. Jcar has been involved in the past four campouts, and is a former officer, so is perfectly positioned to take on this role. Our thanks to Acfunk, who advised two previous campouts and created our helpful Campout Planning Guide.

With these two new appointments, we now have six appointed positions:

- Park Liaison Manager – Louie Bliss
- Geocoin Manager – NepoKama
- Merchandise Manager – Hippyck1620
- APE Event Director – hydnek
- Campout Advisor - jcar
- Webmaster – Right Wing Wacko

Comments

Several members welcomed the new appointees and thanked them for volunteering.

OLD BUSINESS

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the September 26, 2013 Board Meeting were approved unanimously.

Finances

Report by Hippyck1620

Hippyck1620 reported that on November 1, 2013 the club had \$15,992.05. Income for November was \$169.00 and expenses were \$659.19, with an ending balance of \$15,501.86 for a monthly loss of \$490.19.

She reported that the club ran a loss in November due to ordering tracking codes for the 2014 coin. Other than that the month was pretty slow. She expected to see more income in December as more members renew.

Merchandise Report

Report by hydnek and Hippyck1620

Hydnek noted that at the previous board meeting we agreed to sell of our remaining supply of merchandise to recoup expenses and allow us to order new club shirts and swag. She and Right Wing Wacko put together the webpage and it went live. It was also promoted on the site's main page and WSGA's Facebook page. Benandjayne is doing order fulfillments and will be monitoring stock so we can remove sold out items as needed, since we only have a few of some items.

Hydnek also sent out chapter swag packages to all chapter reps a few weeks ago.

Hippychick1620 reported that other than the 2014 pathtags our inventory largely consists of old 10th anniversary stuff and some generic hats. Starting January 1st we will start selling the new pathtags in packs of 5.

Comments

Hydnsek asked about getting new club shirts. She said that we have enough money to cover that. Hippychick1620 responded that we could see what happens with the sale, and then look at getting new shirts and other items.

2013 Member Bonus

Report by hydnek

Every fall since 2010, we've surprised our members with a Member Bonus - free swag to thank them for supporting WSGA and geocaching in Washington. In October, the Board approved a new pathtag as this year's bonus, featuring the Space Needle, Mt Rainier, and the Seattle skyline. The custom back is our WSGA Give Back, with the \$0.10 per-tag cost returning to WSGA, so we can use it for future goodies.

The pathtags arrived a couple weeks ago, and benandjayme mailed out 340+ envelopes last week. Individual and Associate members received 1, and Family members got 2. Starting Jan. 1, these will also be our new-member gifts, replacing the patches. We will also be selling the pathtags online in 5-packs on the same page as our 2014 Washington coin.

As always, NepoKama did a great design, and as the Board agreed, it's a design set with our 2014 Washington coin.

2014 Geocoin

Report by hydnek and NepoKama

Our 2014 Washington coin continues our east/west theme for a third year. NepoKama's design features Grand Coulee Dam for the East side and the Seattle skyline and Mt Rainier for the West. The Space Needle glows in the dark! In keeping with our goal of having the coin out in January, to spur renewals, coin production is now in the fall. The Board approved the design and minting in October. Oakcoins is our minter again this year, and we are minting 270 coins in antique silver, plus 30 volunteer coins in antique bronze.

Sales price will be the same as last year, except postage is included in the price - which actually makes it cheaper for those buying a single coin. Member price is \$11.50, limit three per household. Nonmember price is \$13.50. All orders will be mailed. The coin is

at the mint, and hydnsek has created the coin order page, which should go live January 1, and the club expects to mail the coins in late January. Note that you must have a 2014 membership to get member pricing and order coins on Jan. 1.

NepoKama reported that production of the 2014 coin had not started. He was working with a new contact at Oakcoins and the process had not gone as smoothly as prior coins. There were delays in getting the factory art together, as well as some confusion on the price quoted. He had received an updated quote that was 150% of the original price.

He worked with the folks at Oakcoins until price issues were resolved and the original quote we were given was honored. He was waiting for final artwork tweaks to start production. Tracking codes were already purchased, so only the final artwork was needed. He was following up with Oakcoins management about the issues described and looking for assurances that we won't see similar issues in the future.

APE Event

Report by hydnsek

Now that the 2013 Ape mega-event has wound down - 1600 attendees! - we're beginning work on the 2014 event, which will be Sunday, Aug. 17, 2014. The event page is now live, and Groundspeak is cross-promoting it from their Block Party page. Hydnsek signed Groundspeak's mega-event contract for 2014, and after the holidays, she planned to start working with our state parks contacts and vendors.

The Executive Committee had an excellent postmortem on the Ape event last month, discussing what went well and how to improve the things that need improving (like parking). We will be applying much of that learning next year's event.

Two key things:

1. We'll need to find more parking, and perhaps run a shuttle to the main venue.
2. We need to double up on our volunteers, to adequately support the event and our attendees.

Hydnsek agreed to stay on one more year as Event Director, for our 5th annual Ape event. HippyChick1620 volunteered as assistant director this year, managing the main booth area. Hydnsek's main goal was to hand the reins over to her for 2015.

Comments

NepoKama said that he wanted to start gathering ideas for the 2014 APE coin. He wanted to settle on a design by the end of May to insure that the coins would be ready for the event. He planned to start a new thread in the forums to discuss the coin.

2014 Summer Campout

Report by hydNSEK, Sunshine Geo, and jcar

HydNSEK reported that at our last Board meeting, we agreed that the 2014 Summer Campout should be held in Eastern Washington. It's Cache-cadia's turn in the rotation, but since they don't have the bandwidth to host, Inland Empire graciously agreed to take it on, even though it will be a bit of a distance for them. IE followed up, and Angie Harper (Sunshine Geo) volunteered as campout manager. She has scouted several locations, and has worked with jcar, our Campout Advisor, on a proposal.

Jcar reported that Sun Lakes was the recommended site. He said that they also considered Sun Banks and Coulee Playland. The following is the full proposal as presented in the WSGA forums:

Angie Harper (Sunshine Geo) researched and scouted several locations that were checked out in person. Sun Lakes State Park, Sun Banks, and Coulee Playland were the top three choices. Each had some advantages and disadvantages. These three were picked to look at further as they were in the area that was recommended for the campout.

Sun Lakes State Park

The group area and RV spots are away from the main camp and will be quiet and semi private. A vault toilet is in the group area, showers are about 400 feet away. The group site has a large fire pit but only 7 picnic tables. The park offers swimming, hiking, fishing, boat rentals, golfing and a store. Reservations need to be made soon as Group site is available but group site rate needs to be negotiated.

RV - \$32 – 42 (based on 19 sites approx \$1,510*)

Tent - Based on negotiations of group site (approx \$4 / person based on 35 people \$275*)

Day - \$10 (parking) FREE with discover pass

Group site – yes

* hydNSEK stated she would negotiate the price with her State Park contact.

Sun Banks

Has several tent and RV sites but lots of them are already reserved so it would be hard to get enough sites together to fit our group. Fire pits are not reservable and picnic tables would need to be moved to provide the area for a group dinner. One day RV is almost as much as we have charged for two day RV at prior campouts. Tent is also very high.

RV - \$63

Tent - \$39

Day - ???

Group - no and mixed with other campers

Coulee Playland

This is smaller than the other two but is a great location on the lake. The costs for tents are high (but RV is in line with last year.) Reservation can be made on January 1 but priority is given to fishing tournament participants, which probably also means a lot of noise in the morning from adjoining campsites. High per person day visitor rate. Yurts available.

RV - \$37 - \$42

Tent - \$37

Day - \$6

Group site - Additional

The recommendation is for **Sun Lakes State Park**. Unfortunately we need to act soon to get the group site. This offers several advantages. The group site can handle multiple tents (est 15 - 20) and can be the group meeting area. There are many great hikes in the area and a small lake is within walking distance in the park. The park offers boat rentals golfing and a store. The location is smaller and will be more intimate, we will be sharing with others but the group tent area will be reserved for us. This also provides more reasonable prices although we will need to charge a little bit more for RV's as compared to last year. Tent pricing will depend on the pricing for the common area but with the ability of fitting 15 - 20 tents into the area it is expected that pricing will be similar to last year. The budget provided below is a very rough estimate because some of that depends on the negotiations for the campsites and the number attending. Because of the short time frame and reservations are already being taken we would like to proceed with negotiation and reservation now and we will follow up with a budget after the final reservation price is settled. We expect the non-campsite budget items to be within the range they have been the last couple of years.

Estimated 2014 Budget:

Camp sites: \$1,800

Path tags: \$220

Food/Supply: \$500

Sunshine Geo reported that she had considered lots of campgrounds and picked Sun Banks Resort, Sun Lakes State Park, and Coulee Playland. She said that Sun Banks was very expensive and we would be scattered throughout the park. Coulee Playland was an okay spot, but was also very expensive and close to the road. We also couldn't reserve before January 1st and preference would be given to fishing derby attendees.

Sun Lakes State Park has a group area with a large fire pit but only 7 picnic tables. The RV spots are close to the group area. We would be very close to showers and there is a covered shelter for the group dinner. The park offers hiking, swimming, fishing, a store and anyone not wanting to camp can stay the private resort. Based on 19 RV spaces

and 35 tent campers the cost would be about \$1800, but she was hoping hydnek could negotiate a better price.

Comments

Hydnek asked whether the board wanted to discuss the proposal and vote tonight or take more time to review it and vote by e-mail.

Geek&Gopher expressed concern about the lack of shade in the desert. Several members noted that was to be expected in Eastern Washington.

Hippyck1620 asked how we would track both tent campers and tents in a group site. Hydnek said that we might have to look at how previous campouts handled the group sites.

Hydnek called for a vote to see where members stood. She motioned to approve Sun Lakes State Parks as the location of the 2014 Summer Campout and to authorize Sunshine Geo and jcar to proceed with negotiations and reservations, then report back to the board. Hippyck1620 seconded the motion. The motion passed 10 to 1, with Geek&Gopher opposed.

Membership

Report by hydnek and psykokiwi

Hydnek reported that she was pondering our membership growth - it appears flat this year, or even slipping a bit - when she did a head slap. Our membership has been growing, we just weren't accounting for it correctly. We were counting Family accounts the same as Individual ones, so we were undercounting our members. Back when we only had Individual and Associate members, 1 account equaled 1 member (not always, but that's what we had), but from 2011 on, Family memberships have been available, and they are always at least 2 people. And Family memberships are where we've seen most of our growth over the past two years, so we've been selling ourselves short.

She said that going forward, when doing membership tallies, we will be counting Family as 2, and Individual and Associate as 1. Some Families are 3,4,5 members, but they are all at least 2, which gets us a more realistic picture of our membership.

Membership Count and Chapter Breakdowns:

Chapters	Individual	Family	Associate	Total
Puget Sound	99	130	1	230
48 North	37	50	1	88
Cache-Cadia	7	8	0	15
Inland Empire	15	34	3	52
Olympic Peninsula	14	18	0	32

South Central	9	22	0	31
Southwest	8	18	0	26
Unaffiliated	3	8	4	15
Totals as of 12/12/2013	192	288	9	489

Comments

Tumbleweedpirates and Martin 5 asked whether it was possible to count the actual number of members under each family membership. Hydnek said that would be more difficult to do, but counting families as at least 2 gives a closer approximation.

Benandjaye asked whether chapter allocations would be calculated based on the new membership accounting. Hydnek proposed that we use the new accounting to figure chapter allocations going forward. Hippychick1620 noted that family memberships get a different allocation than individual memberships already. Chapters are allocated \$5.00 for each individual membership and \$7.50 for each family membership, up to \$750 per chapter.

Benandjaye made a motion to use hydnek's suggested accounting (family member = 2, individual member = 1) for purposes of getting a rough tally of members, but that we leave the chapter allocation formula as is. Mc3cats seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Park Liaison Report

Report by hydnek and Louie Bliss

Hydnek first gave an update on the WA State Parks Centennial GeoTour. Dec. 7 was the six-month milestone, and as you know, it's been wildly successful for both WSGA and the State Parks, not to mention geocachers. To date, 140 people have received Silver coins (50 caches) and 32 have claimed Gold coins (100 caches). 40 Silver coins remain, but all the Golds are gone, so we'll list honorable mentions going forward. The GeoTour thread on our site contains the list of finishers as well as some GeoTour Statistics - most found, least found, most Favorited, etc.

Our next project with the State Parks is to bring all pre-existing caches into compliance. The club had begun work on that, but was experiencing delays getting stewardship approvals for permits. Hydnek was working with her state parks contacts, and the club hoped to resolve this soon, so we can move forward with compliance and future placements. The deadline for cache permitting (compliance) was pushed back to March, and the Groundspeak reviewers were aware, so there will be no sudden archivals.

Hydnek was thrilled that Louie Bliss is our new Park Liaison Manager. She started in late October, and her first contacts were the individual park liaisons and Kitsap County

Parks. Louie Bliss reported that she had already added a new liaison for the city of Kent, Peach & Pete. Hydnek noted that Cool Cow Cachers had also agreed to be the new liaisons for Kitsap County Parks.

Comments

Benandjaye reported that he had followed up with Ranger Tina and other State Park staff a couple days ago regarding the GIS data sharing discussed during the last board meeting. Lisa Lantz at Park Stewardship had been out on extended leave, but he thought that the conversation would get rebooted soon. He said that the goal was to help us and them not have to process permit applications for areas where caches won't be permitted.

Chapter Reports

Puget Sound Chapter report by mc3cats

We had one event, that our illustrious VP (Kelly) put on as part of the TB blast off to the ISS event. Kel did a fantastic job putting this event on. The event over ran the size of the location as we had a TON of people show up. But all in all an awesome event that was well attended.

The chapter's annual holiday party is already posted which is on Jan 12 with Renton Memorial Hall. SirKarp has been gracious enough to return for the decorating the place so it should be quite festive. This event is open to ALL cachers, regardless of what chapter you reside in. I hope to see some shining dry side of the state folks there.

Olympic Peninsula Chapter report by idajo2 (via mc3cats)

Since my last report I regret that given my myriad of health issues my final year of the WSGA Chapter rep for the Olympic Pen has fallen by the wayside. My apologies to one and all.

On the upside, I have a couple of folks in mind who would, I feel would make a great Oly Pen Chapter Rep. When the time is right I'd be happy to pass on the names. There has not been any Oly Pen chapter events since my last report and none can be planned until there is a date set for my open heart surgery. My medical gurus are working on that date. In the interim, my job is to rest eat more, relax and hurry up and wait until the ducks are in a row. I am planning to attend the WSGA Holiday Party in January weather permitting! I hope to see everyone there.

48 North Chapter report by GrievousAngel

In October, some of us represented geocaching at a Cabela's women's event. It was pretty fun, and I think we got more interest from the women (especially moms looking for a family activity) than we did from the guys at previous events. The Washington State Parks (Rangers Tina, Amber and ??) table was right next to ours, which added to the fun. Also in October, 48 North co-sponsored jcar's Frito Pies event in "Allanon's Forest" near Monroe. The Frito pies were delicious, and Abby and I both saw a bear (the same bear).

(GrievousAngel's chapter report was cut short due to computer problems.)

Cache-Cadia Chapter report by Mr. Gadget #2

We held two events on Nov 6 and 7 for the TB to the ISS and had our Holiday party Last Thursday. We also had two new members join WSGA.

Inland Empire Chapter report by Martin 5

We have had a busy few months in the IE Chapter. We hosted 3 events in October. Our 2nd annual Corn Maze event, a 1st annual Zombie Hike event in Riverside State Park and our annual Halloween Party event, complete with the Zombie movie "Fido."

In November we hosted a Geocaching in Space event and this month we have a 2nd annual Christmas Party event on December 21st.

Our premier event, our 8th annual Winter Party is scheduled for February 15th (GC4AVG9).

Lookout Lisa of Cache Advance opened up her storefront Cache Cave last month. She has allowed us to use the warehouse space for our Halloween event and it worked great. We will also now be storing our chapter supplies at the Cache Cave, vs moving them between garages and basements.

A thank you to Ross (scareway) for organizing the Zombie Hike and Halloween events, his favorites. Also to Derek (CacheDFish) for helping with the planning of the Corn Maze, Geo in Space and Christmas Party. And once again, thank you to Angie (Sunshine Geo) for her work on the 2014 Campout.

South Central Chapter report by tumbleweedpirates

We had a little Halloween event dinner and prizes, then a 11/12/13 event. Walla Walla had a Geo space event, very nice. Yakima had an event with a few people I couldn't make it unfortunately. Now we are having a dinner tomorrow night and I just put out 13 caches to celebrate Geo HoHoHo 2013, which are getting published as we speak.

Southwest Chapter report by Geek&Gopher

Had to cancel our Holiday Bizarre: Ugly Sweater Event because we only had one signed up for it. Part of the problem is that 90% of our event attendees are from Portland and they're having a holiday event on the same and time. That was the only date that worked for us.

We are planning on doing some kind of event in January, not sure what at this time. We just need to make sure it doesn't conflict with any Geo-Oregon Event.

We had a lot of fun during our time as the SW Chapter Reps. But, we are going to be stepping down as Chapter Reps effective March 31, 2014, due to other personal obligations. We have asked the Cackleberry Clan and Geo Jerry if they would like to be nominated and they both said no thanks because of other commitments. Maybe Bearsandme as they live in our chapter but are unaffiliated members.

NEW BUSINESS

2013 Volunteer Awards

Report by hydnek

Each year, we recognize 30 WSGA members who went above and beyond, as chosen by their Chapter Reps and the President. Below are our 2013 Volunteers of the Year, each of whom received the antique-bronze Volunteer version of our 2013 geocoin.

Officers:

Hippychick1620 - Kristine is doing an amazing job as Treasurer, keeping detailed records of our income and expenditures and helping with membership.

benandjaye - As Secretary, Ben produces the best Board minutes the club has ever had, and handles all our club swag mailings. Plus, he developed our new Small Grant Program.

Chapter Representatives:

mc3cats - Puget Sound

GrievousAngel - 48 North - most active chapter rep!

Martin 5 - Inland Empire

tumbleweedpirates - South Central

Geek&Gopher - Southwest - also hosted the Summer Campout!

idajo2 - Olympic Peninsula

Mr. Gadget #2 - Cache-cadia

President's Picks:

NepoKama & FenChurch - Mitch and Fen both volunteer at events, and NepoKama manages all the WSGA pathtags and geocoins, plus does other design work, e.g., the Ape event souvenir. He also donated his time and skills to create geocoins for the Washington State Parks and King County Parks GeoTours.

Louie Bliss - Nicole is an active club volunteer and a wealth of geocaching knowledge, thanks to her previous role as a Groundspeak lackey. In Fall 2013, she became our new Park Liaison Manager, the club's most important appointed position, which supports the club's founding purpose of working with land managers to promote geocaching. She's the perfect person to grow and evolve our Park Liaison Program.

rocketglider - Jim is one of our go-to volunteers, always ready to lend a hand. He's worked all four of the Going APE events, serves as park liaison for several state parks, and placed three caches for the State Parks GeoTour.

GrnXnham - Dave & Staci help maintain GCD, and for the past two years have organized a guided hike to GCD for before the annual Ape mega-event, much to the delight of our attendees.

Cool Cow Cachers - Kevin volunteered as the new Kitsap County Parks liaison, even though he lives in Tacoma, plus he volunteered to maintain 7-C's GeoTour caches along Hood Canal while he's on military deployment.

WatchDOGSMike - Mike is a stalwart volunteer and vocal club supporter, and has handled buying and providing the refreshments for the APE mega-event for two years.

Go-pher-It - Gabe is an avid supporter of WSGA, and was instrumental in getting the Iron Horse GeoTour cache replaced the morning of the Ape event, so that 1000+ visitors could log it during the mega-event.

jim_carson - Jim works behind the scenes, doing key stuff in anonymity. He plotted the default coordinates for the 54 caches in our WSGA cache-art series, making sure the WSGA turned out just right. He's an assistant webmaster, in charge of the Cache of the Month. And he's going to be working on our website redesign as the new WSGA webmaster.

Right Wing Wacko - Paul has been the WSGA webmaster for the past six years, and created the current website. He's also served on the Board as president (2006) and treasurer (2007-09). As president, he oversaw the creation of our chapter structure, a crucial change that gave members across the state a voice on the Board and local representation, and helped the club grow.

Puget Sound:

SirKarp - Rob and Carol offered to decorate the hall for the 2012 Holiday party, using their vast collection of holiday décor. It turned out great, and they did an even more spectacular job this year.

Cougarcach24 - Val is a relatively new member who's jumped into supporting the club. She helped with the Ape event, and volunteered to take over the State Parks GeoTour cache at Millersylvania at the last minute, when another cacher dropped out.

Terrible T's - Jim put on a great camo clinic during the State Parks GeoTour kickoff event.

macemakiao - Mason manned the grill at the State Parks GeoTour kickoff event when

no one else was available, freeing mc3cats to manage the event.

FugeFinders - Long-time club supporters, Lynette and Tom volunteered all day at the Ape event, and also hosted a GSAK class during the State Parks GeoTour kickoff event. Lynette is known for (literally) giving the shirt off her back to other cachers.

48 North:

icar - Jim is a past Board member and a wonderful advisor, with a wealth of knowledge about geocaching, geocaching guidelines, and the history of geocaching in our area. He's an assistant WSGA webmaster and the club's new Campout Advisor. As if that weren't enough, he's always willing to volunteer for chapter activities, and hosted last year's root beer float event and this year's Frito Pies event. Plus, he's filling in as Vice President and membership manager for the final three months of this term.

mizdirection - Toni is an awesome volunteer for 48 North. Whether it's representing geocaching at Cabela's, setting up for an event, or helping newbies learn the ropes, Toni is there!

Inland Empire:

CacheDFish - Derek is the IE chapter rep's right-hand-man, helping coordinate chapter events and working with cachers who need to get state-park permits for existing caches.

scareway - Ross created and planned our Zombie Hike event. He coordinated, decorated, and planned the event movie for our Halloween event. And he's our chapter historian, who takes and posts dozens of photos at our events.

South Central:

ihavecats - Cindy continues to be part of the organizing team for the TriCity Geocoin Challenge even though she has to drive a long way for meetings.

wild ponies - Shannon and Cindy have hosted events this year in Walla Walla and placed caches there to spur interest. With their support, Walla Walla has a nice network of fun geocachers.

Southwest:

Cackleberry Clan - Buck and Michelle volunteer at chapter events and have held their own, promoting geocaching and WSGA in our area. Their help at the 2013 Campout was key to its success.

Small Grant Program

Report by benandjayme

As you're all aware, the club is in better financial shape than it has ever been. That's great news, of course, and has only happened as a result of all the efforts of current and past board members and volunteers. Big thanks to all of you for your contributions to WSGA's success!

One of the newer considerations we have as a club is what to do with the extra money we now have in the bank. What a great "problem" to have! It's important for us to find good ways to leverage our funds to continue furthering the club's missions. With that in mind, at the October 2013 executive committee meeting hydnek, psykikiwi, Hippychick1620 and benandjayme spent some time brainstorming different ways that the club could use its funds to promote our stated purposes.

One outgrowth of that conversation was the donation to Northwest Trails that the board approved in October. The other main product - which took some more time to prepare - is this new proposal. The executive committee proposes that the club create and fund an annual Small Grant Program that would offer awards to individuals, groups, and nonprofit organizations working on geocaching-related activities that will positively impact the Washington geocaching community.

After a few rounds of revision, we created a program description and application for the full board to review. Benandjayme posted a new thread in the board of directors forum a couple weeks ago to share the proposed document and get feedback from the full board on the proposal. The executive committee received some thoughtful feedback from a few board members and had a good discussion about a couple aspects of the program (e.g. the program timeline, who should be allowed to apply, how to ensure funding good projects, etc).

Based on the productive feedback received, benandjayme suggested a few changes to the original proposal:

- 1) Explicitly state that applications from WSGA members will receive funding preference in the case of equally worthy applications. This is an attempt to find a compromise position as to whether applications should be limited to WSGA members or not. Credit to hydnek for the suggestion.
- 2) Require any applicants with less than a certain amount of "caching experience" to include an experienced caching sponsor as part of their application. Exactly what constitutes sufficient caching experience is up for discussion. (Minimum number of years? Minimum number of finds?) Credit to GrievousAngel for the suggestion.
- 3) Push back the original timeline (i.e. start accepting applications on 1/1/14) a little bit so that there will still be time to promote the program in advance of the applications deadline. Benandjayme suggested that we push back everything in the originally proposed timeline by a few weeks to give us a bit more ramp up time.

The process by which small grant applications would be reviewed and approved is not detailed in the proposed document. The proposal was for the executive committee to review all applications received and present those that best match WSGA's goals to the full board for voting.

Alternatively, under Article 8.2 of the WSGA bylaws the president could appoint and the board could approve a new grant committee to review and select grant recipients.

Comments

Several members expressed support for the revised proposal. Hydnek asked

tumbleweedpirates whether the revisions had addressed concerns he raised in the forum thread previously. He indicated that they had.

Hydnsek suggested a final round of revisions before an e-mail vote by the board. She said she hoped to call for a vote in the next week.

Bylaw Amendment – Chapter Allocations

Report by hydnek

In Dec. 2012, we amended Bylaw 10.8 to allow each chapter to receive a base allocation in January to cover expenses before annual allocations are determined. However, the amendment stated a specific amount, \$50. Bylaws normally don't state specifics, since it can constrain club operations. Therefore, hydnek recommended section 10.8.1 be amended as follows, the wording of which is in line with the rest of our Bylaws:

10.8.1 - Each active Chapter shall may be allotted a base allocation of \$50 at the beginning of the calendar year, regardless of size. To receive the funds, the Chapter Representative must submit appropriate receipts along with chapter event plans, including one published event. Once a chapter receives its annual allocation, any spent portion of the \$50 base allocation will be deducted.

Current plan is to continue with the \$50 figure in 2014 and beyond, but this allows the Board to change the amount if desired without violating the Bylaws.

Comments

Hydnsek asked whether there was a motion to approve the amendment and tumbleweedpirates so motioned. Geek&Gopher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Bylaw Amendment – Solicitation Policy

Report by hydnek

In the past few years, we've had various individuals and groups ask to solicit at club events for various things - from selling personal coins to promoting opencaching.com to requesting donations for individual causes. Each time it's come up, the general consensus has been "no," that official WSGA events were not an appropriate venue for non-club solicitations, no matter how beneficial, and we didn't want club members feeling pressured to contribute when they are attending a social event. There are plenty of ways for our community to contribute privately without doing it at a WSGA event.

After another recent request, the officers felt it would be optimal to have a formal policy that we can point to in such situations, which also will provide guidance to future Boards and members. Therefore, the executive committee proposed the following Solicitation

Policy, which would become Article 11 of the Bylaws:

Article 11: Solicitation Policy

11.1 – No individual or organization shall sell non-WSGA goods or solicit donations for non-WSGA purposes at WSGA events or through the WSGA mailing list. This includes solicitations for coin sales, support of other organizations, and private donations. Exceptions shall require prior approval of the Executive Committee.

Comments

Tumbleweedpirates was concerned that the policy sounded like legalism. Benandjayme suggested that it was important for event hosts to have an official policy to point to when uncomfortable solicitation issues arise. A few members agreed with that.

Tumbleweedpirates said that this amendment could affect his chapter's relationship with some partners. Hydnek said that the intent was not to prevent partnerships, but rather explicit solicitation. Hippyck1620 pointed out that there was an exception clause in the proposal, but tumbleweedpirates said that he did not want to have to ask for exceptions.

Benandjayme said he thought there was a difference between a vendor/solicitor relationship and a partner/co-sponsor relationship. Hydnek said the proposal was really about folks attending events and asking for money or memberships for non-WSGA causes.

Mc3cats said that idajo2 had expressed concern that the proposed amendment would tie chapter reps' hands. Hydnek again pointed out that there was an exceptions clause. Mc3cats said that there should be a Bylaw, but that chapter reps should have some discretion in determining the community's best interests.

Psykiwi explained that she had received a solicitation request at an event she had recently hosted. She said the issue became very tense and caused bad feelings between some close cachers. Hydnek said that the proposal was based on that experience and previous ones in 48 North and Puget Sound Chapters, to name a few.

Hydnek asked whether members would feel differently if the proposed amendment was changed to allow exceptions by any board member, including chapter reps. Benandjayme agreed that giving discretion to the chapter reps was appropriate, but that it was important for event hosts to have a Bylaw to point to when they want to keep something inappropriate out of the event.

Tumbleweedpirates expressed concern about not knowing which types of outside participation would require an exception to the proposed Bylaw. Hydnek said that under the revised proposal a chapter rep could decide what they deemed appropriate. Hydnek restated the revised proposal as follows:

Article 11: Solicitation Policy

11.1 – No individual or organization shall sell non-WSGA goods or solicit donations for non-WSGA purposes at WSGA events or through the WSGA mailing list. This includes solicitations for coin sales, support of other organizations, and private donations. Exceptions shall require prior approval of a current board member (officer or chapter representative).

Hydnsek asked whether there was a motion to approve the revised Bylaw amendment. Psykokiwi so motioned. The motion passed unanimously.

WSGA Website Overhaul

Report by hydnek

We all know our website sucks. Most of our traffic is on Facebook, although not everyone is on there. Although the front end of websites is her professional expertise, due to other priorities, hydnek had never been able to tackle it. However, her goal was to make overhauling the website her final project as president.

She had been sketching out the front end, and soliciting back-end support, including a new webmaster. Jim Carson and Kevin Norton (HippyChick1620's husband) had both agreed to help with the back-end (the technology), as they have expertise in that area.

We are looking at moving to WordPress or something similar. It will be easy (easier) to use, better looking and more usable. We do have some considerations, and like buying a house, we may not get everything we want or have now.

Kevin, Jim, and hydnek planned to put their heads together after the holidays and come up with a proposal for the board's consideration, with a goal of getting 'er done before March 31. It's a small site, so hydnek hoped they could carry that off.

The member database functionality might be trickier. Hydnek had been itching to address this for five years, but other things always seemed a higher priority for her, so the Facebook page was the club's interim fix.

Comments

Several members expressed excitement about the possibility of a new website.

Upcoming Board Elections

Report by hydnek

Hydnsek reminded the board that all terms run until March 31st and nominations would start in February for the next election, which would be March 1-15. She noted that there

will be several vacancies and hoped that some board members would return. She asked the board to put on their thinking caps for officers and chapter reps and noted that president, Puget Sound chapter rep, and Olympic Peninsula chapter rep would all be vacant.

Comments

Tumbleweedpirates asked whether chapter reps served for one or two years and hydNSEK answered that all board members were elected for only one year. She thought that a two year term would be great since that would mean less churn and work around elections, but she suspected we'd have a harder time recruiting candidates.

BenandJayme suggested that we could stagger the elections of board members.

HydNSEK said that the idea could be discussed further in the board of directors forum.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:52 PM.