

# Minutes of WSGA Board Meeting

December 13, 2012

Hydnsek called WSGA's 4th Business Meeting of the year to order at 6:40PM on December 13, 2012.

Board Members in Attendance: jcar (Jim Bertrand), acfunk (Al Funk), Mc3Cats (Chris Brue), hydnnsek (Abby Wolfe), Geek&Gopher (Ray Harrison), lucymogus (Elaine Edwards), Kidvegas19 (Jim Parkman), mazeracer (Nate Canfield), idajo2 (Jo Dunn), Mr. Gadget#2 (Gene Reed)

Absent: Fluteface (Margaret Dunn)

Guests: NepoKama (WSGA Geocoin and Pathtags Manager)

Others mentioned during the meeting and listed here for reference: Right Wing Wacko, Suckerish, PhilNi, Rey del Roble, The McMorrrows, Tumbleweedpirates

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## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes**

Minutes from the October 11, 2012 Board Meeting were approved unanimously.

### **Finances** – Reported by lucymogus

Current funds are at \$10,211.16. Income for November was \$254.00. Expenses were \$2,612.48 with the t-shirt/hoodies order being the main expense. The Association's finances are the best they have ever been going into the new year.

Future expenses expected early in 2013 include the campout deposit and the 2013 coin. Income for early in 2013 will include membership renewals.

(The full financial report for 2012 is included at the end of the minutes as Addendum A.)

### **Member Bonus (Anniversary Pathtag)** – Reported by hydnnsek with NepoKama

Hydnsek thanked NepoKama for a great job on the design of the [anniversary pathtag](#). She said we have gotten lots of great feedback on our Facebook page and the website thread. This was our third year to offer a free member bonus, and it seems the most popular one so far, and has encouraged a few renewals and new memberships.

NepoKama said there have been 39 members who have logged their tags into their collections on Pathtags.com so far.

### **Merchandise** – Reported by hydnek with jcar and acfunk

The additional caps, hoodies, and T-shirts arrived a few weeks ago and we split them 50/50 between the east and west side. Hydnek has the West side supply and acfunk has the East. The East side supply will be used to fulfill online orders.

Hydnek said she had a pending email to the Board that proposes a new scenario for chapters who want to sell club items at events. She suggests that each chapter receive a merchandise 'kit' containing one of each of WSGA sale items so that they can be displayed at events along with a sign with prices. Orders and payments could be taken and fulfilled from either the East or West side merchandise supplies. One question that needs resolution was postage and how to work that into pricing; jcar is working on pricing options.

One solution would be for Chapter Representatives to receive the orders and deliver them at events. Hydnek asked for discussion on this as opposed to direct mailing all orders to individual buyers.

Responses were mixed with some chapters not seeing a problem with delivery by the chapter rep and others wanting a direct mailing. Hydnek suggested postponing the decision until her followup email with additional details. It was agreed to continue the discussion offline.

Hydnek said that, pending the resolution of the postage issues (jcar) and input from the website administrator (Right Wing Wacko), she will create online sales pages for the shirts, hoodies, hats, and pathtags, just as has been done for WSGA coins.

She mentioned that she will be distributing about 150 green anniversary bandanas to all chapters to use as free swag at upcoming events. She said they would come with the merchandise 'kits' mentioned earlier.

Hydnek noted we have a new "Give Back" WSGA back on pathtags.com that folks can request for their personal pathtags. NepoKama explained that anyone creating a tag can select the back (the WSGA logo) for an extra \$0.10 per tag. The funds collected are donated to the WSGA. For example, a basic starter kit order (50 tags) would result in a \$5 donation to the WSGA. He said our Give Back is [now live on pathtags.com](http://nowliveonpathtags.com). Give Back payments are made quarterly. We have two logo options for the backs: our normal logo coloring for most metals and a reversed version for black nickel (white and green are switched on the letters).

### **Campout 2013** – Reported by hydnek with Geek&Gopher

At the last meeting, Geek&Gopher and acfunk reported on their site visit and recommendation of [Timberlake Campground](#) down on the Columbia Gorge, but we had a few questions about finances and registration, etc., so we agreed to follow up offline to get those resolved so we would have all the info needed for an informed vote.

Jcar and lucymogus worked up a proposed financial plan based on Geek&Gopher's input and their knowledge of previous campouts. Hydnek then negotiated with the Timberlake manager, LeRoy Anderson, over the past few weeks. He was very firm on price - no breaks for being a large group, even on day visitors and parking, because he says he sells out fast and doesn't need our business (although he's quite willing to work with us).

Despite early reports, he was agreeable to us managing our registration and fee collection, so that turned out to be a non-issue. He also is fine with us paying up front to ensure we get all the sites we want, but advance payment didn't sway him on price breaks. End result is the campground will cost us a little more than previous years, but not that much more, and we can adjust fees to keep it reasonable for attendees while taking a very minor loss.

Hydnek's recommendation, based on input from Board members and talking to LeRoy, is that we book all 21 tent sites and 16 RV sites, plus the Timberlake lodge and kitchen. The fee we'll pay the campground, with tax, is approximately \$2,338.

If the Board approves this plan, then hydNSEK will finalize the reservation with LeRoy, and we'll pay him in January, per his request. Total expense for the campout, including food, etc, will be about \$3000.

After brief discussion, a motion to approve Timberlake Campground and costs for the 2013 Campout was made by Mc3cats with a second by acfunk. The motion was approved unanimously. HydNSEK said she would finalize the reservation and then turn campout planning over to Geek&Gopher.

**Geocoin 2013** – Reported by hydNSEK with NepoKama

Design work for the 2013 geocoin is underway, with NepoKama both designing and producing the coin after we failed to get any entries for our coin-design contest. NepoKama has two proposed designs, each featuring an East/West motif for the state coin.

NepoKama said he received lots of comments on the initial apple/rhododendron design. For the Space Needle/Grand Coulee Dam design, he said the Space Needle side was easy, but he was still trying to get a design for the dam that didn't look weird. He said that he may also receive a design from Suckerish.

For the apple/rhododendron design, he said he was going to put together an optional background pattern of evergreen trees because the state outline would be too obscured to be recognizable. He was also working with the "produce tag" WSGA logo on the apple to make it a bit larger without overpowering the apple itself.

HydNSEK said we won't have the coin produced in January for a renewal incentive, but that production by late February may be an option. NepoKama said that once we finalize a design, we'll be looking at 4-6 weeks for production. Requesting samples before a production run would add a couple weeks.

Discussion followed, with Board members liking both designs. HydNSEK suggested that NepoKama proceed with finalizing both the apple/rhododendron and space needle/dam designs, with a goal of making a design decision by mid-January. She also asked NepoKama to give Suckerish a deadline so that her design would be received by about January 10. (Followup: Suckerish did not submit a design.)

**Membership** – Reported by jcar

Membership Count and Chapter Breakdowns: 11/30/2012

Chapters	Individual	Family	Associate	Total
Puget Sound	111	67	1	179
48 North	44	29	1	74
Olympic Peninsula	14	16	0	30
Inland Empire	16	12	4	32
South Central	11	12	0	23
Cache-Cadia	11	7	0	18
Southwest	4	7	1	12
Unaffiliated			6	6
Totals as of 11/30/2012	211	150	13	374

Jcar said that renewals have started rolling in, and we currently almost have 100 members paid through 2013 (about the same as last year at this point). HydNSEK said she would be posting renewal reminders on Facebook, on the website, and in an end-of-year newsletter.

## **Washington State Parks** – Reported by hydnsek

**Revised State Park Guidelines for Geocaching:** Ten years ago, Washington State Parks (WSPRC) wanted to ban caching, and WSGA was founded to negotiate with them and helped create a permit system. Now a new day dawns in our relationship. Yesterday (Dec. 12), WSPRC executive director Don Hoch signed an updated geocaching directive that contains many positive changes for geocachers (and park managers). Among other things, it eliminates one layer of permit signoffs, it removes the requirement to renew permits annually, and it removes the requirement to check caches every 90 days. [Read all the details and see the new Directive.](#)

Hydnsek began discussing possible changes with WSPRC last May, and during a September meeting, she was asked to submit her proposals for a revised Geocache Directive. She made substantial revisions, looking back to changes we proposed in 2005-06 that were rejected, and adding others that experience has indicated would be good. We expected some back and forth on the proposal, but WSPRC accepted ALL the changes, and incorporated them into the revised directive.

Hydnsek highlighted that this is a huge win for geocachers and the state parks. The new Geocache Directive starts immediately - it's an official as of yesterday. WSPRC is going to send a memo to all park managers regarding the Directive to ensure awareness and participation (Hydnsek is co-writing the memo with her WSPRC counterpart). Hydnsek also noted that this communication across the park system regarding geocaching is also much better than how things were communicated six years ago.

WSPRC added a new clause to the Directive that will affect some caches. It requires all existing caches in State Parks to come into compliance with the Directive. There are some older caches that have never been permitted, and previously they were left alone (grandfathered) unless a park manager requested action. These caches are no longer exempt and will now need to be dealt with. Hydnsek has agreed to work with the parks on this as needed, and she will be calling on Board members to help with caches in their areas. It may mean we lose a few caches to archival in situations where the owners are unresponsive and the caches can't be updated or adopted.

**2013 State Park Geocaching Challenge:** WSPRC wants to sponsor a geocaching challenge - possibly a GeoTour (donated by Groundspeak) - for their 2013 Centennial, if WSGA is willing to partner to make it happen. The tagline suggested by hydnsek is "100 caches in 100 parks to celebrate 100 years." This will be a primary part of the State Parks centennial celebration and would kick off in March. There would be a geocoin as the prize for finishers, and WSPRC agreed to our offer to split the cost. Thus, the State Parks would have one side of the coin, and WSGA the other side - great publicity and a great way to cement our new relationship.

NepoKama is designing the coin, and PhilNi would be project manager for our cache placements. Rey del Roble has agreed to help with a kickoff event at Cama Beach SP, and hydnsek would be the overall project manager, partnering with Tina Dinzl-Pederson, our primary contact on the State Parks side.

Hydnsek said this would be a great way to close our 10th anniversary year,, and asked for a motion for WSGA to partner with WSPRC on a centennial geocaching challenge, as one of WSGA's 2013 priorities. Idajo2 so motioned and lucymogus seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Kidvegas19 asked for clarification on how to submit the form for placing a cache in a State Park. He said that the contact information for each park is not readily available and suggested that the Board get a directory together for WSGA members and the geocaching community. Hydnsek said that she asked the state to provide the contact info for each park with their list of 100 parks that will be participating in the challenge. Kidvegas19 said the topic goes deeper and that he would continue the discussion offline.

## **Chapter Reports**

### **Olympic Peninsula** – Reported by idajo2

The WSGA's Olympic Peninsula Chapter has been quiet since my last Board Report. The October 8th car accident that prevented my attendance at the last meeting and the huge number of details around preparation for major surgery, on January 15th, have combined to direct my attention, and my energy, elsewhere.

I had a great time at the very well-attended and successful, back-to-back Sequim Centennial caching events on November 17th and 18th. It was so good to see so many Seattle-side geocachers in attendance as well as a few friends from the Vancouver (WA) and Aberdeen areas! I was pleased to be given the opportunity to present a brief WSGA spiel. It was a pleasure to be included on an Agenda with the Mayor of Sequim, the Clallam County Historical Society and the Sequim Chamber of Commerce.

During the second day's festivities, I was introduced to Mary Brelsford who is the Communications Manager for the Olympic Peninsula Visitor Bureau (located in Port Angeles). Mary was thrilled with her introduction to geocaching at the Sequim event and, once things settle down, I'm looking forward to meeting with her to talk about working together to promote geocaching activities, and promote WSGA/Visitor Bureau interaction, on the Olympic Peninsula; WSGA Board members are, of course, WELCOME to join us for those discussions. I'll make sure the Officers receive information about any upcoming meeting plans.

The Olympic Peninsula Chapter won't be having a holiday event in December or January. I have tentative plans for an event in February or March, depending on my surgery recovery speed. I have no idea what the next few years will bring other than the fact that I will be undergoing three, additional, major surgeries. I am, at this point, willing to continue my term (and beyond, if elected) as the WSGA's Olympic Peninsula Chapter Representative. However, I certainly understand if a decision is made to seek out a new Representative with fewer health concerns. I will do my best to remain as active as possible until such time as I'm told otherwise.

### **Puget Sound Chapter** – Reported by Mc3cats

We had a pretty awesome founders event in September. Hydnek did a fantastic job as MC of the event, rounding up 13 of the 19 of the founders, who told awesome stories about the "old days" of the club and geocaching. We had a huge turnout and I was lucky enough to meet with some of the original members and heard some personal stories of the club.

In October, I took the WSGA travelling wagon on the road and did an event in Lacey and in November found an awesome pizza place in the Greenwood neighborhood of Seattle. Both events had excellent turnouts. The Seattle event was a nice one since we had a local cacher suggest the location and pulled some cachers who don't usually attend events, but felt compelled to given the location.

Yesterday, another cacher in Enumclaw did a 12/12/12 event which was co-sponsored. The McMorrow's found a nice Chinese place down there which will be perfect for future events.

On Sunday, January 13, we have our annual Holiday party in Renton. We would love it if folks from both sides of the Cascades could attend.

### **Inland Empire** – Reported by Kidvegas19

We had a corn maze event and a Halloween event at the end of October. No one got lost. It was a-maize-ing!

One of our members staged a Geocaching 101, 201, 301 event that was great. There were three different classrooms that taught Social Networking, Quality Hides, and NW Trails for Garmin and DeLorme.

Yesterday was a gaggle of 12/12/12 events, the WSGA version being the last one of the day. Nothing spectacular but good old fashioned meet and greet.

We have a Christmas event coming up on the 22nd and plan to poll attendees what they would like to see for our big show event, "Think Spring", at the end of February. I shall extend the same invite to our West side friends.

#### **South Central** – Reported by mazeracer

Tumbleweedpirates hosted the 12/12/12 event, which was co-sponsored by WSGA and which also served as the Chapter's Christmas event. Over 30 cachers attended. Tumbleweedpirates did a great job. We also found the "missing" new member that joined in September (but had lost paperwork).

#### **Southwest** – Reported by Geek&Gopher

We had a great time with our Monster Bash Event. We had a good turnout with lots of fun, food and wacky costumes. We got lots of good comments about it.

We had an awesome turnout for our 12-12-12 Event last night. We had about 50 people show up for the event at Juliano's Pizza in Vancouver. As usual we had about 90% of the people were from Oregon.

We are thinking of doing an event in the month of February, details to follow.

#### **Board Elections 2013** – Discussion led by hydNSEK

As you all know, our terms this year run until March 31. Elections are in March, and at our January 24 Board meeting (the next one), we'll open the nominations. I know several Board members are retiring after this year, as many have served multiple years. Chapter Representatives: if you aren't returning, it's a good time to start looking for your successor.

HydNSEK asked for input from the current members: who is thinking of returning and who is stepping down?

Mazeracer, kidvegas19, acfunk, jcar, lucymogus and fluteface responded that they will be stepping down.

Idajo2 said she would be staying on.

Mc3cats said he wouldn't mind finding a replacement but would stay on if a suitable one could not be found.

Geek&Gopher said that they may be moving to Spokane so he wasn't sure. If they did move, they might be willing to be Chapter Representative for IE.

HydNSEK said she may stay on for continuity and for the State Parks project considering how many Board members may be leaving.

#### **Bylaws Amendments** – Discussion led by hydNSEK

Our final topic is the proposed Bylaw revisions, which I compiled over the past several months and finally posted for review and decisions. There are four proposed revisions.

First Proposed Revision: Bylaws Section 9.3.1 - *A Member must be at least 21 years of age to serve on the Board.* Rationale: We have teenage members, but since they aren't adults they can't legally handle finances (e.g., debit cards) or sign contracts, which could create legal and liability issues.

Idajo2 commented: "Unless a citizen of the State of Washington is deemed mentally incompetent, and lacks the legal capacity to enter into contracts, those over the age of eighteen (18) are generally assumed

"to have full power to bind themselves by entering into agreements and contracts. In the State of Washington, the legal age for entering into contracts is 18. The test for mental capacity is whether the party understood the nature and consequences of the transaction in question. If there is doubt about whether an individual has authority to enter into a contract, the contract should be reviewed and approved by the Executive Board.

"Within the State of Washington, the legal age to qualify for a debit/credit card on her/his own is 18. However, most credit card companies require that an applicant under 21, have a steady source of income before s/he can be approved for a credit card; otherwise, a co-signer is needed. I spoke with my bank (Wells Fargo) about their debit card requirement; the age limit to qualify for a debit card is 18. U.S. Bank has an 18 year old age limit as does Key Bank.

"I don't understand why teenagers, 18 and over, serving on the WSGA Board is an issue (it would be a huge positive on a college application!). If there's a specific reason that fueled this proposed Amendment, Board members need to know what that is, in my opinion."

Jcar said he had suggested 21 simply based on experience when he was younger. Hydensek noted the intent of the amendment was to ensure Board members were of sufficient age to be legally responsible for finances and contract signatures on behalf of the club, and if 18 was more appropriate, that was fine.

Nobody else had comments, so Hydensek asked for a motion to amend the Bylaws with the following:  
Section 9.3.1 - *A Member must be at least 18 years of age to serve on the Board.*

Mc3cats made the motion and hydensek seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Second Proposed Revision: Bylaws Section 9.3.3 - *Nominees for President must be current or previous Board members who have served at least one full term. No previous Board experience is required for other positions.* Rationale: Knowledge of the club and its operations should be required to run the entire club as President.

Idajo2 commented: "Why does a nominee for WSGA Board President need to have served as a Board member prior to being elected? I understand requiring that nominees be a MEMBER of the organization but I don't understand why they need to have been a Board member. That, in my opinion, severely limits our member's options for active involvement in the governance of the Organization.

"There are members of the WSGA who have years of solid organizational experience AND have been members of the WSGA for years; those members would easily qualify to serve as President without prior WSGA Board experience. The proposed Bylaw amendment appears, to me, to short-circuit the electoral process and would severely limit our member's voting options. If the underlying purpose of this proposed Bylaw change is to avoid "popularity contests", I believe our members are more "savvy" than that - as was demonstrated by the last Board election. Nevertheless, if a Bylaw amendment is put into place requiring that the Board President must be a current, or former, Board member, I feel it's time to put term limits into place for that position. Perhaps there should be a three-year maximum with, at least, a one-year stand-down before s/he can run again."

Acfunk commented: I think that enthusiasm and commitment are more important than experience.

Hydensek commented: The thought behind this amendment, at least for me, was that being in the top leadership position requires a lot of knowledge of internal club operations that a newcomer would not know simply starting as President with no previous experience. I was a Chapter Rep for a year before President, and it helped inform me tremendously about club operations. I would not have been as productive as quickly if I didn't know how the club worked internally.

Kidvegas19 commented: I would side with hydensek's reasoning. Idajo2 makes valid points, but continuity is important.

Hydensek commented: I would add that several previous Board members, including Half-Canadian, Prying Pandora, and Right Wing Wacko – former presidents and vice president – had the same

recommendation, which is where this originated, and in fact, I had intended this to be part of the Bylaw revisions last year, and simply overlooked it.

Jcar commented: I agree on the continuity.

Idajo2 commented: If we have a GOOD set of Bylaws, and good record-keeping (which we DO), a good incoming President would acclimate quickly.

Hydnsek noted: Bylaws cover the general operation of the club, not the specific projects and activities or practices, which Board members are familiar with.

Lucymogus commented: It could seriously limit our field of candidates in years where no prior board member wishes to serve.

Geek&Gopher commented: A new President can still reach out to old board members for advice.

Lucymogus agreed and said that the past president could serve as an advisor for at least a year.

Acfunk commented that there could be a transition period of 2-3 months where the old officers agree to indoctrinate the new ones and be on call for advice.

Jcar suggested that there could be two-year terms where only some of the officers are elected each year.

Hydnsek commented that she had been in several clubs where serving on the Board was a requirement to be president, which is why she thought it made sense when her predecessors recommended it.

Hydnsek then asked if there was a motion to reject the amendment.

Acfunk motioned to reject the proposed amendment. Lucymogus seconded.

The vote count was: aye 4, abstain 4, nay 1, so the motion did not carry. However, there was also no vote to incorporate the amendment, so the amendment was tabled and will not become a part of the Bylaws.

Third Proposed Revision: Bylaws Section 9.3.5 - *Members cannot be elected to or hold Board positions if they have previously performed actions that are detrimental to the purposes, organization, or reputation of WSGA.*

Idajo2 commented: "Who determines whether, or not, actions are detrimental to the purposes, organization or reputation of WSGA? I don't believe that any member should be deterred from running for any office "out-of-hand." In my (considerable) life experience, there are two sides to most situations. I've been involved with many Boards in my life: volunteer and professional. In my experience, I've never heard of a Board member waking up one morning with the determination to "take down the Board" as part of his or her To-Do List. I feel that, whatever the situation, a decision such as this is important enough that both sides should be thoroughly explored, by the full WSGA Board, before a determination is made.

"If this situation should arise, I feel it should be reviewed on an individual basis and a vote taken. The Member in question should have right – and be encouraged - to come before the full Board (with an advocate if the Member so desires) to discuss the specifics of the situation that led to the actions seen as detrimental. In my opinion, "transparency" is the key to issues such as this."

Hydnsek commented: A similar statement is already in the club Bylaws for membership (Section. 3.6) and existing Board members (Section 5.7), removal of which requires 2/3 Board majority. Why not clarify it also applies to Board nominees?

Acfunk commented: I also think this is a bad amendment. Subjective and potentially opens us for lawsuits.

NepoKama commented: Where it's a requirement for membership and membership is required for board positions isn't it already there without stating separately? It seems redundant to me.



Idajo2 commented: I think we, as a full Board, need to fully understand both sides when an issue such as this arises.

Lucymogus commented: It is definitely subjective territory on who gets to determine what's detrimental. The wording is way too loose for me.

Hydnsek commented: In order to deny membership, there has to be discussion and decision by the board, per the Bylaws. Nothing new is being introduced, except specifically applying it to Board nominees.

Acfunk commented: I disagree. You can be a member who is critical of the Board and then get blacklisted.

Hydnsek responded: That's a good point. Is there a motion to reject the proposed amendment?

Lucymogus made such a motion. Mc3cats seconded.

The vote was 5 Aye, 5 Abstain, and 0 No. The motion required 6 votes to carry, so the motion was tabled and will not go into the Bylaws.

Fourth Proposed Revision: *Bylaws Section 10.8.1 - Each active Chapter shall 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 chapter allocation, any spent portion of the \$50 will be deducted.*

Geek&Gopher motioned to pass. Idajo2 seconded.

The motion passed unanimously.

There was no other new business.

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The meeting was adjourned at 10:07 PM.

## **Addendum A: Treasurer's Full Financial Report for 2012**

Will be added to final minutes.