

Denver Group Council Minutes
Aug 13, 2014

In Attendance: Jeff Flax, Dave Hutchison, Neil Schliemann, Alex Petre, Roger Wendell, Kevin Schaal.
Absent: Valerie Walker, Sandy McRae.

Guests: Brenda Porter, Joe Griffith, Bill Haneghan, Linda Lawson, Lynn Petre.

1. **Call to Order:** Jeff called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to approve the amended July meeting minutes.
3. **Budget and Financial:**
 - Notes from Neil's July Budget: July net income was positive but under budget by \$1,204. Year to date net income is \$1,585 under budget. Total revenue is \$11,159 below budget, but total expenses and room charges are \$6,374 and \$3,200 below budget respectively. Overall the budget status is slightly better than last month. G&A revenues are under budget by \$13,207, \$9,746 in dues and \$754 in newsletter subscriptions, both reflecting loss of membership. Membership numbers fell by 8 in July. At the current membership level we will continue to see similar losses in revenue for the remainder of the budget year. Adjustments have been made to prior months to add interest earnings and expenses on our bank accounts. An adjustment to school expense lowering it by \$2,800 has also been included.
 - July's budget was positive, and each month the budget is looking better. If this trend continues, the end-of-the-year budget should show us in the black.
 - DG received a waiver of FFS for two schools, WTS and WFA, two schools that promote CMC leadership roles. This signifies that CMC Administration does in fact recognize the value that these schools provide for the overall health of the club. DG must get clarification, in writing, if this waiver includes any and all charges related to leadership development or if it is just for these two schools. Brenda will follow up and provide clarification.
 - Alex will serve as DGC Treasurer for 2015. Neil is training Alex for this transition.
 - Alex and Dave will get signatures on file at the bank allowing them to write checks for next year.
4. **Meeting Room Discussions:**
 - The DGC Subcommittee that investigated alternate meeting spaces reported that the currently available alternate meeting spaces would provide no dollar savings and therefore would not be a financial benefit to DGC.
 - CMC is considering implementing a policy requiring that DG must use the AMC for running Schools and holding meetings. This is an acknowledgment that State CMC needs DG and represents a 180 degree reversal from the past where State previously suggested DG should look elsewhere for meeting space, thereby allowing State to profit from renting space at the AMC.
 - Roger will reserve the Baker Room for all the 2015 DGC meetings.
5. **Elimination of DG Hiker Classification System - Survey Results:** 90 people responded to the survey recently sent to 205 trip leaders which was felt to be a very high rate of respondents. Overall, the proposed change to eliminate the hiker classification system was viewed as positive. However,

there was a concern that the policy change may affect DG schools differently than how it might affect hikes and trips. The survey results are attached to these meeting minutes.

- One conclusion was that most leaders want more tools and adequate training on how best to screen potential trip participants.
- Joe and Bill were asked what would happen to WTC and BMS schools if the policy change was implemented. Joe responded that initially there was some confusion as to what the new policy actually was. This came as a result of him having read May's council meeting minutes. After receiving clarification, he thought it would put a little more burden on trip leaders, but overall would not be a problem.
 - Joe also commented that he was having problems recruiting Sr. Instructors for WTS.
- Bill mentioned that BMS actually uses the hiker classification system and requires new BMS students to have a C-rating to be accepted into BMS.
- In the end, neither Joe nor Bill felt the change in policy would be a problem, and should in fact be a benefit.

6. C-Long and Difficult Hike Classification:

- A complaint was received from a C-rated trip leader complaining that he couldn't lead D hikes because he wasn't qualified. During group discussion, it was acknowledged that D hikes involve longer distances and higher elevation gains and calls into question issues regarding safety, liability and trip leader qualifications. Present policy was defended by citing the need for leaders to have sufficient training, and that we should be careful about issuing waivers just to placate a disgruntled person. In the end, this person was given a D-hiker "non-technical" rating so he can now lead non-technical D hikes. However, the trip signup system cannot differentiate between a technical and a non-technical hike, leaving some unanswered questions about the waiver that was granted.
- The above discussion led to re-asking the question asked months ago: Should we have a C-long and difficult hike classification? DS&L to review from their perspective and provide input.

7. **Nominating Committee:** In July, council unanimously approved the candidacy of Maddie Philley and Linda Dupuis for council seats. Since then, Brian LeBlanc agreed to run and was unanimously approved in the August meeting. His bio is attached to these minutes. This leaves us one candidate shy of having a full council slate for 2015 since M. Billings resigned last month. Council recommended accepting the 3 qualified candidates above and continue looking for one additional candidate. When one is found, they can be appointed to serve the remainder of 2015 and then seek election for a full term in the 2016 election.

8. **Web Update:** Jeff reported he will co-chair the State web development committee. The committee is looking for better ways to link HikingDenver.net and CMC.org. They are also looking at new web templates to replace our current outdated one.

9. **Social Media:** Lynn Petre reported on progress she is making with our efforts to build community through the use of social media. Social media is a way to reach a wider, possibly younger audience than we currently do, encourages interaction, and generates excitement by posting trip reports, photographs, and information on upcoming trips and events. To get the word out, she will prepare an article for inclusion in the Mile High Mountaineer about DG's presence on Facebook and Twitter. Lynn recommends we add Instagram to the repertoire in the near term, and she is also considering the addition of a CMC blog.

- Lynn is trying to connect with Erin Thompson and the Trailblazer's Group to encourage them to increase their use of social media to market CMC.

- It was recommended that council members go to the wordpress.org website, look at page layouts examples and report back what you think would look good for the CMC-Denver.org website that is being planned.

10. State Board:

- Three candidates were interviewed for the open CEO position, Scott Robson, Tim Blume and Uwe Sartori. Subsequent to the August DGC meeting, Scott Robson was announced as CMC's new CEO.
- DGC members attending the State Board Meeting heard the State's finance report which is normally presented only in executive session. It was reported that the state is seeing the same financial impact due to membership declines as we are seeing in the DG.

11. Donation to the Cole Kennedy Memorial Fund: An e-mail vote was taken in July regarding a DGC donation to the American Alpine Club's Cole Kennedy Memorial Fund in the amount of \$100. Cole Kennedy was the son of Tele School Director Jim Kennedy who is a very active member of the DG. The vote was five in favor (Neil, Kevin, Sandy, Roger, and Valerie) and two not voting (Dave and Alex). Cole was killed in a climbing accident on the southwest face of Pirámide de Garcilaso, a 19,300-foot mountain in the Cordillera Blanca range in northern Peru in mid-July. Our sympathy goes out to the family. A thank you note from the American Alpine Club was received for our donation and is attached to the minutes.

12. Other:

- The question was raised if DGC needed to adopt a policy on the use of marijuana on DGC hikes, trips or schools. Council decided no policy was needed at this time.
- It was reported that Jan Monnier would no longer be acting as the liaison between DGC and DG Schools. No replacement was mentioned.

13. Snacks: Dave will bring snacks for September's meeting which is scheduled for 9/10/14.

14. Adjournment: Council adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Schaal
9/04/14

Attachments: Hiker Classification Survey Results
Brian LeBlanc Bio
Cole Kennedy Memorial Thank You Letter

What methods did you current use to screen hikers on C and D hikes? Choose all that apply

Set up hikers on the trip as contact leader	37	44.58%
Use passcode	36	43.37%
Screen hikers through phone conversation	53	63.86%
Get references for hikers you don't know	20	24.10%
Do a warm up to assess skills	4	4.82%
Don't do C and D hikes	16	19.28%

Top five comments

Contact hikers by email - this works best

I rely on the hiker classification system to weed them out

For difficult trips, outline the difficulty of the trip, specify the schools required to complete the trip, outline skills and fitness required

Don't use hiker classification because they can be quite old and outdated.

Under the new policy, I believe:

My trips will fill quicker and more often	24	25.81%
My trips will continue to fill at same rate	42	45.16%
My trips will fill less quickly and less often	6	6.45%
I don't know	21	22.58%

70% positive

Under the new policy, I believe:

Members will participate on more hikes	38	40.86%
Members will participate on the same amt of hikes	27	29.03%
Members will participate in fewer hikes	6	6.45%
I don't know	22	23.66%

70% positive

Under the new policy, I believe:

Members will be more satisfied	42	46.15%
Members will be neither more nor less satisfied	19	20.88%
Members will be less satisfied	15	16.48%
I don't know	15	16.48%

66% positive

Under the new policy, I believe:

As a leader, I will be more satisfied	19	20.65%
As a leader, I will be neither more or less satisfied	39	42.39%
As a leader, I will be less satisfied	25	27.17%
I don't know	9	9.78%

63% positive

Under the new policy, I believe:

CMC Denver schools enrollment will increase	14	15.22%
CMC Denver schools enrollment will neither increase nor decrease	34	36.96%
CMC Denver schools enrollment will decrease	20	21.74%
I don't know	24	26.09%

52% positive

I would like to see

Better memver data access by leaders (schools, experience, trips)	73	80.22%
Training or review of successful leader pre-screening techniques	28	30.77%
Training for members about the classification system	50	54.95%
More creative and sophisticated marketing of my school	12	13.19%
I can handle it, no worries	16	17.58%

overwhelmingly want better tools

Under the new policy, my work to qualify participants for my trips will

Response	Count	Percentage	Percentage of total (41% feel work will stay same or decrease, but 41% say it will increase)
Not increase or decrease	29	30.85%	
Decrease slightly	3	3.19%	
Decrease some	3	3.19%	
Decrease a lot	4	4.26%	
Increase slightly	13	13.83%	
Increase some	19	20.21%	
Increase a lot	16	17.02%	
I don't know	7	7.45%	

Soapbox - top comments

Concern over increase in work for those who already volunteer their time; several indicated if work level increases; they will lead less hikes, if any; some feel this makes us a meet up group
 Concern that unqualified hikers will be on trips and ruin the trip for all hikers; thereby reducing overall member satisfaction, it takes one unprepared hiker to ruin the trip for all

Leaders want better access to tools to screen hikers without a phone call or email

Many think the current hiker classification system is outdated and should be eliminated

Several say "do it", could be enormously successful, many already screen and have no problem with it

May slow the decline in membership

Some leaders will set up trips exclusively for members they know

Some folks are misinterpreting what the new policy means - would be good to further clarify exactly what it means

For example: This policy seems to state that the Denver Group Sections can not restrict a trip to their own members. And: I don't see the difference between the old policy and the "new" policy. Please tell me the difference

And: This "new" policy sounds exactly like what I thought our current policy was.

Q10

I am leading a 2015 YOM RMNP hike

26 44.83%

I plan on participating in the 2015 YOM summit series

18 31.03%

I have no clue what you are talking about

14 24.14%

Please throw my hat in the ring....

I discovered my passion for climbing and backpacking in 1973 and it changed my life, leading me on a path filled with the wonders of the backcountry and the satisfaction of overcoming challenges that few get to experience. I have derived immense satisfaction from serving as an instructor in the technical climbing schools ranging from BMS to TLCS, turning beginners on to the satisfaction of moving safely and competently over technical ground. I have also led a few trips, struggling to balance work, kids and family, personal climbing goals and my desire to provide experience for recent school graduates. The reason I want to serve on the Denver Council is that it is important to me that future generations have an opportunity to experience the outdoors the way I have. Serving as an instructor has contributed to this goal directly, but due to time constraints I can't do as much as I would like. Serving on the Council will provide a means to contribute in a way that is easier to fit into my schedule. I recently retired from a career in pharmaceutical sales and am embarking on an adventure building new businesses. My formal education includes a degree in chemistry and an MBA in financial analysis. I'm good with people, numbers and oral and written communication.

-Brian Le Blanc



the
**AMERICAN
ALPINE club**
WHERE CLIMBERS UNITE

AUG 19 2014

August 15, 2014

Colorado Mountain Club
710 10th Street Ste. 200
Golden, CO 80401

Dear Colorado Mountain Club,

Thank you for your recent donation of \$100 on 8/13/14 to the American Alpine Club's Cole Kennedy Memorial Fund fund. Supporting fellow members and the climbing community at large is our foundation and a core value. Your charitable giving is part of that legacy and helps ensure our future. We are now over 14,000 members strong and growing; proving that AAC programs are relevant and necessary for climbers of all ages and disciplines.

Your AAC is a 501.(c) 3 charitable organization. There were no goods and services associated with this gift.

We would like to recognize your important contribution to this work in our Annual Report. According to our current records, you will be listed as -. If you would like to change this listing or prefer to be listed anonymously, please contact me at 303-951-4566 or vhormuth@americanalpineclub.org.

My role is to serve you, our donor. Please never hesitate to pick up the phone or send an email with advice, suggestions, and comments or just to chat. Our goal is to continually improve our service to you and act as superior custodians of our donors' funds always.

With sincere appreciation,

Vickie Hormuth
Development Manager

P.S. The 2015 Annual Benefit Dinner will be in New York on 1/31/2015. Tickets include dinner presentation by Rienhold Messner, open bar, silent and live auctions, and access to other weekend activities including climber gatherings and panel discussions. For more information feel free to call 303-384-0110 or visit americanalpineclub.org/p/2015_annual_benefit_dinner