

WILLOW DOG MUSHERS ASSOCIATION

August Minutes

August 26, 2015

Meeting called to order at 7:03pm by Vice President Justin High at the Willow Community Center. A quorum was present.

Attendees were :Peter Duncan, Justin High, Marianne Schoppmeyer, Ruedi Bolt, JP Norris, Kari Skogen, Steve Charles, Justin High, Sue Morgan, Carrie Smoldon, Randall Kolwalke, and John Wood

Guest Speaker: Randall Kolwalke, Matsu Assembly Candidate for our district spoke briefly and handed out promotional material. A motion was raised by Justin and seconded by Peter that the Club endorse Randall Kolwalke as Assemblyman. A motion was raised by JP and seconded by Peter that the Club also endorse Vern Halter as candidate for Borough Mayor. Jamie will send out a statement to membership expressing both endorsements.

Officer Reports:

Secretary: Jamie handed out minutes for both May and July. Minutes were approved with attendee corrections.

Treasurer: Although Peter has already been doing some treasurer responsibilities he is almost ready to assume that post.

Committee/Special Groups, Reports:

Trails-Steve: Matsu Grooming applications due Friday. For the 3 trail systems, Steve for the West Gateway, Joan for the Haessler/Norris system and to Jenny for the Emil Stanzec system. For the State grooming pool, which is usually \$29, 00 we can get ½ of.

Trail damage from the Sockeye fire is bad. The destruction of the plant growth on top of the soil has affected the support of the trail itself. The borough may be able to help.

Burned tree removal may be financed some by the grooming pool. We did get the stump removal money. Received \$5,000 from revenue sharing from WACO.

Joan has gotten the ball rolling on easements for the Haessler/Norris system avoiding private property. Reroutes have been done already but need to be surveyed the Borough says they will survey. Down the road a work party to clear trails will be needed

State rec money is coming up this fall. \$50,000 for non-motorized trails.

Tech support-JP: Paypal button working on the website. Facebook page can be easily done. Instead of printing membership cards, JP will work on one that a new member can print out themselves.

Animal Care and Emergency Preparedness: Jamie-Discussion on if the Borough had a big enough presence during the Sockeye Fire evacuation. Membership decided the Borough did what it could with its limited resources and training. And, thankfully the Willow mushers themselves engaged to evacuate everyone's kennel with everyone who could help helping.

There is still an opening for a Board member in the MatSu Animal Care Board. Applications are on line

Race committee: Justin-asked for a 6pm meeting the following Tues at the community center. Jamie will send out notice to membership.

Carnival committee: Kari- last meeting was cancelled.

Unfinished Business

1. Bylaw Changes
 - a) vote on staggering officer term length and changing from one year to two year terms
 - b) discussion on creation of a professional non-voting membership
2. Guest presentation/workshop idea
3. Gaming permit
4. Donations report/Willow Recovery Team: Jamie reports that generous donations were received from the event in Fairbanks, Mush with Love, and from Wellpet, Eagle Pack. North West Sled Dog club has also accumulated \$4000 from their Sockeye fire/mushers fund. Since they have a couple of mushers whose property was destroyed in Washington from wild fires, would we allow this money to be used for the Washington mushers? The club agreed to do this, unanimously.
5. Website
6. Raffle is happening! First prize is an Hemming Arctis Cart with a bag donated by Karen Ramstead.
Second prize is a framed pastel donated to the club by Dave Totten. Tickets are \$10 each and 1,000 tickets have been printed. Underdog Feed will be taking the phone orders since we cannot sell them over the internet.

New Business: None????

Announcements:

1. Better Companions is having their yearly Responsible Dog Ownership day on Sept 19. Would anyone be able to represent the club? Jamie would try.
2. Willow Recovery Team is having an event for Sockeye Fire victims to pick out free donations of household goods and pick up a quilt from the Quilters Guild. Invitations have been sent. This event is Sept 12.
3. Small Business Association has declared they would offer low interest loans. Not just to businesses but to home owners. They have an office set up at the ambulance building on Willow Parkway.

Adjourn: 8:34pm