

# WILLOW DOG MUSHERS ASSOCIATION

## July Minutes

**July 22, 2015**

**Meeting called to order** at 7:05 by Vice President, Justin High, in the Pavilion behind the Willow Community Center, Willow, Alaska. A quorum was present.

**Attendees** were: Peter Duncan, Jamie West, Kari Skogen, JP Norris, Carrie Smoldon, Marianne Schoppmeyer and Jesse Downey, Joan Bryner, Justin High and Jenny Evans

**The Agenda was reviewed and adopted.**

### **Officer Reports:**

Secretary---Jamie left May minutes at home. Will bring them to the next meeting for approval. June meeting was canceled so there were no June minutes. The membership acknowledged that Jamie's extra work on club matters was appreciated since the wildfire has had such an impact on other board members. She is sort of filling in the gaps. Jamie asked that the club fund a couple of outhouses being built by an Eagle Scout for a community project, as well as 2 chicken coups to replace those burned. The membership did not agree.

Treasurer---Acting treasurer is Jamie. Have around 10 new members. Have account set up at Mat Valley Federal Credit Union for Sockeye Wildfire Relief and a regular banking account at Alaska USA Federal credit union.

Vice President -Justin led the meeting. He did attend the WACO meeting. Not much going on, except some dissatisfaction about the email function not working properly. He couldn't find the key to the building and thinks it was burned up in the fire. He will contact Ronnie about getting a new key.

President---Not in attendance, no notice was given.

### **Committee & Special Group Reports:**

Trails: No trails report.

Animal Care Board: Jamie reports that there is an opening for the shelter manager position.

Carnival: The carnival committee would like the club to be involved in the sled dog races, including the kids races. Some discussion about the club putting on the Earl Norris race instead of the Norris family. This race has been a yearly event and part of the Winter Carnival.

Tech Committee: Can now pay membership dues on the website with paypal.

Race Committee: Justin would like to call a meeting soon. Carrie would like to be part of the committee.

Emergency Preparedness: Everyone did an excellent job during evacuation.

Special Events: Because of limited resources the club has officially decided not to host a symposium this year. When contacted Chugiach Dog Mushers did not think they were going to be able to either.

### **Unfinished Business:**

1. Bylaw changes: Tabled until we can get copy of original motion and until b)is presented with appropriate wording.
  - a)vote on staggering officer term length and changing from one year to two years
  - b)discussion on creation of a "professional" non-voting membership
2. Guest presentation/workshop ideas—everyone keep thinking
3. Gaming permit---Justin has talked to Juneau. They are determining cost and are getting back to him. Robert S still needs to take the test. JP and Kari say that Lisbet may be able to step in as second person on the permit.
4. Membership cards---Some discussion on printing membership cards to give out yearly with the club emblem on them.
5. Website---discussion tabled besides the paypal button

**New Business:**

1. Musher fund/community fund donations: Musher Applications for Assistance from the Sockeye Wildfire were dispersed and collected according to instructions from a Board Meeting determining the questions and July 10<sup>th</sup> the turn in date. It had been decided that each musher that applied had lost at least \$2,930. When donations had been sent in, intent of the donor was honored. If people designated their money to go directly to mushers for dog care and getting them out on the trails it was put into the Mat Valley savings account. If they wanted the donation to go into a general fund for the community it was put into the checking account. All records are maintained so that they can be confirmed. Mushers were contacted that their money is available. Some wanted to wait to be sure the money would not conflict with the State's donation clause in their grant contact. Jenny wanted another round of applications to be sent out. Because of possible misinformation that Nick may have received we decided to grant an exception and include him in the original dispersion. A new application was sent via Marianne, but he would have to fill it out and return it before qualifying. However, it was decided that we would not send out another set of applications.
2. Willow Recovery Team---Jamie explained that this volunteer organization is set up to distribute money to the community. There is a parent organization which is a 501c(3) which will be doing grants to disperse toward rebuilding after the wildfire. Several religious groups, the red cross, the united way contribute their experience in rebuilding after disasters. But, local members make the core.  
During discussion there were several questions about the organization and how it works.  
Had decided to give \$10,000 to the Team to see how it was processed. Jamie asked the group if it should be ear marked for some specific purpose. It was determined that the money was to be donated to be used as the Team decides.

**No announcements**

**Adjourn**